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General Assembly
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Official Records

91st Meeting
Friday, 16 December 1994, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Essy . . . . (Côte d'Ivoire)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Agenda item 38 *(continued)*

The situation in the Middle East

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/49/556 and A/49/636)

Draft resolutions (A/49/L.59, A/49/L.60 and A/49/L.61 and Corr.1)

The President *(interpretation from French)*: Members will recall that the Assembly concluded its debate on agenda item 38 at its 73rd meeting, on 1 December 1994.

I call on the representative of Egypt to introduce draft resolutions A/49/L.59 and A/49/L.60.

Mr. Elaraby (Egypt) *(interpretation from Arabic)*: On behalf of the Group of Arab States I am pleased to introduce two of the draft resolutions presented under agenda item 38.

The first draft resolution, contained in document A/49/L.59, relates to Al-Quds. I introduce this draft on behalf of the delegations of Algeria, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

In its preamble, the draft resolution refers to all the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly since 1981 which stipulate categorically that all legislative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, with the aim of altering the legal status or the demographic nature of the Holy City of Al-Quds are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith.

The draft resolution also refers to Security Council resolution 478 (1980) in which the Council, *inter alia*, decided not to recognize the so-called Basic Law of Israel concerning the city of Al-Quds. In that resolution, the Council called upon those States that established diplomatic missions in Al-Quds to withdraw those missions.

The draft resolution reiterates the importance of implementing the above-mentioned resolutions.

The sponsors of this draft resolution wish to express the hope that Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Al-Quds, will be completed in order for peace to be achieved in the Middle East and in order for the city of Al-Quds to become a symbol of peace, peaceful coexistence and harmony amongst the three monotheistic religions.

The second draft resolution, contained in document A/49/L.60, relates to the Syrian Golan. I introduce that draft resolution on behalf of Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one month of the date of the meeting*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Section, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

The draft resolution reiterates the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and the applicability to the occupied Syrian Golan of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

The draft resolution also recalls that Israel has not yet complied with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and that the measure adopted by Israel with regard to annexation of the Golan flagrantly runs counter to that resolution.

The draft resolution also refers to the peace process which began with the convening of the Madrid Peace Conference, in the hope that tangible progress will be achieved in the negotiations now taking place in the context of that process on both the Syrian and the Lebanese tracks.

The draft resolution calls for the complete withdrawal by Israel from all the Syrian Golan.

In calling for speedy progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, I voice the wish of all the sponsors of this draft resolution to witness the implementation of all the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly since this will be the means of bringing about the desired comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East region.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: I call on the representative of Norway to introduce draft resolution A/49/L.61 and Corr.1.

Mr. Aass (Norway): I take great pleasure in introducing, together with the Russian Federation and the United States of America, draft resolution A/49/L.61 and Corr.1, on the Middle East peace process. The following countries have joined in sponsoring the draft resolution: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uruguay.

This draft resolution is a follow-up to resolution 48/58 on the Middle East peace process, which was introduced for the very first time last year.

Under the draft resolution, the Assembly would welcome and give full support to the achievements of the peace process so far. The text also includes references to the agreements and treaties entered into during the past year. The implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements for the Palestinians is moving steadily forward, although behind schedule, and the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area, establishing the Palestinian Authority, was signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) at Cairo on 4 May this year. Normalization of the relations between Israel and its Arab neighbours continues, and on 26 October this year Israel and Jordan signed the historic Treaty of Peace. These new important steps are reflected both in the preambular and the operative parts of the draft resolution.

The parties deserve our praise for their outstanding courage and commitment to move ahead with the peace process despite internal opposition and attempts to derail the peace process through violence and terror.

In operative paragraph 4, the Assembly would stress the need to achieve rapid progress on the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations within the peace process initiated in Madrid. It is our hope that the bilateral talks between Israel and Syria and between Israel and Lebanon will be inspired by these positive developments and will soon lead to concrete results towards peace, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions. With regard to the Israel-Lebanon track, Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 will be an important point of reference.

The Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit, which was held at Casablanca from 30 October to 1 November this year, clearly demonstrated that a profound change of climate has occurred in the Middle East. New possibilities for regional cooperation have opened up, which in turn should inspire further progress in the peace process. The declaration of the Casablanca

Summit is welcomed in the last preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

An important element of the draft resolution before the Assembly is the call upon Member States to expedite economic, financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian people during the interim period, to extend such assistance to parties in the region and to render support for the peace process. Increased assistance from the international community is particularly important in the present phase in the light of the deteriorating economic situation in the Palestinian self-rule areas. We see that last year's optimism and hopes for a better life have given way to disappointment and political infighting on the Palestinian side. In the absence of quick and visible improvements, the whole Middle East peace process could be in danger.

Operative paragraph 7 points to the positive contribution that an active United Nations role can have in the Middle East peace process and in assisting in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area and the agreement on preparatory transfer of powers and responsibilities. The appointment by the Secretary-General of a Special Coordinator in the occupied territories, mentioned in paragraph 5, has underlined the commitment of the United Nations to strengthening further its role in the peace process.

The purpose of this draft resolution is not only to welcome the achievements of the peace process so far, but also to register the strong support of United Nations Members for further efforts towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Many important issues remain to be solved. And this year the draft resolution does not mention issues which are subjects for negotiation between the parties. We believe that the Assembly should be careful not to add to or detract from what only the parties themselves can decide. We do, however, consider it vitally important that at this critical stage the world community express its continued support for the peace process through the General Assembly. We therefore recommend this draft resolution for unanimous adoption.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I call next on the representative of the Russian Federation, also to introduce draft resolution A/49/L.61 and Corr.1.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): The delegation of the Russian Federation, as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process, is honoured to join Norway and the United States of America in introducing draft resolution A/49/L.61 and Corr.1. The main purpose of the draft resolution is to strengthen the positive elements and achievements of the Middle East peace process and to guide the parties towards further practical results in all areas of the negotiations.

Since the beginning of the Madrid peace process, impressive progress has been achieved. The Palestinian self-governing body is being established, and work is under way on other aspects of the process. We are pleased by developments in the process, and want all aspects of the conflict to be resolved without prejudice to any of the parties to the conflict. That, indeed, is the logic of the Madrid formula for the peace process.

Guided by the basic principle that regional conflicts must be unblocked in the interests of improving the overall international climate, Russia has made the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East an important priority in its foreign policy. We are actively promoting progress in the region — which, I should note, is very near the southern borders of the Russian Federation.

We consider that the signing of the Jordan-Israel Treaty of Peace, which also bears the signature of the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, marked the beginning of a new era in the peace process. The next important event was the beginning of the establishment on the ground of Palestinian self-rule.

On the whole, we are satisfied with the dynamics of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, although with respect to the establishment of an autonomous authority the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization is facing considerable concrete difficulties. At the moment, talks in Cairo between Israel and the Palestinians on elections to the Palestinian Council, the self-government body for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, are of great importance.

Material support from outside is necessary to ensure the establishment of Palestinian self-rule, and on the draft resolution the Assembly would call upon States to expedite economic, financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian people during the interim period. For its part, Russia is extending assistance to the Palestinians, including equipment for the Palestinian police and security forces. We are also considering projects for possible Russian participation in the economic and social development of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

By another very important paragraph of the draft resolution, the Assembly would consider that an active United Nations role in the Middle East peace process and in assisting in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles could make a positive contribution. We believe that the United Nations and its specialized agencies, especially the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), have great experience in a variety of humanitarian and technical programmes in the occupied territories. Their potential could be most useful in the process of implementing the Declaration of Principles.

In the draft resolution the Assembly would also stress the need to achieve rapid progress on the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

In this context, we are concerned at the lack of synchronization between the negotiating tracks. At this stage the primary need is to get the Syrian-Israeli talks going again. Intensive contacts between Russia, Syria and Israel have identified, in the positions of both parties, specific elements of flexibility sufficiently meaningful to convince the sponsors that they should aim at achieving progress. In this regard, it is important that things be speeded up.

The outcome of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations will largely determine the means by which the Lebanese-Israeli problem can be unblocked. At the same time, the situation in Lebanon has its own characteristics. We assume that Security Council resolution 425 (1978), whose purpose is to ensure Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, and security in the northern part of Israel, still provides a specific international legal basis for the settlement of this question.

We are convinced that the adoption of this draft resolution will provide important political support for the process of building a post-confrontation Middle East based on wide international cooperation and accelerated economic development in the region. Russia attaches great significance to the multilateral aspect of the peace process, which is becoming more and more specific, and is of the opinion that the United Nations, including the Security Council, will continue to help advance the process in all its aspects.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: I now call on the representative of the United States of America, also to introduce draft resolution A/49/L.61 and Corr.1.

Mr. Gnehm (United States of America): The draft resolution that we offer today — A/49/L.61 and Corr.1 — gives the General Assembly an opportunity to reaffirm its support for the Middle East peace process inaugurated in Madrid in October 1991. Since that historic beginning we have witnessed the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization; the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area; the 29 August 1994 agreement on the preparatory transfer of powers and responsibilities; the agreement between Israel and Jordan on the Common Agenda; and the Jordan-Israel Treaty of Peace of 26 October 1994. All of these constitute significant steps on the way towards achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

It is necessary and appropriate that the world should offer its encouragement to the parties as they work to overcome the legacy of a past marked by hatred, war, suspicion and distrust. It is also imperative that the world support the parties as they face the challenge of those who seek, by violence and terrorism, to undermine and reverse the strides that they have taken so far. The parties themselves have reiterated their condemnation of violence and terrorism. They remain committed to the resolution of their differences through negotiation, despite the brutal and bloody efforts of the enemies of peace and reconciliation.

It is the long-standing position of the United States that the just and lasting peace that we seek for the Middle East must be comprehensive. We therefore strongly hope and desire that progress will soon become evident in the efforts of Syria and Israel and of Lebanon and Israel to negotiate peace. In this context, I wish to reaffirm my Government's commitment to Lebanon's political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Those objectives were set forth in Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which my Government supports.

My Government has been deeply involved in numerous efforts to see that appropriate economic assistance is channelled in support of peace. This draft resolution clearly reflects the international community's view that such assistance for development is a crucial priority and should be supported by it.

The draft resolution is a clear signal to the parties that the international community recognizes and supports their courageous efforts to reshape the world in which their children will live. It also constitutes recognition of what they have already achieved in direct negotiation on their differences. The General Assembly's adoption of this draft resolution will be a resounding vote of confidence in the peace process begun in Madrid.

In closing, I wish to say that the United States is proud once again to have worked with the representatives of Russia, Norway and many other countries in sponsoring this draft resolution. We invite the representatives of all States to join in expressing support for the peoples of the Middle East as they continue their efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We shall now proceed to consider draft resolutions A/49/L.59, A/49/L.60 and A/49/L.61 and Corr.1.

I should like to inform representatives that Greece and Paraguay have become sponsors of draft resolution A/49/L.61 and Corr.1.

Several representatives wish to make statements in explanation of vote before the voting. May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Elaraby (Egypt) *(interpretation from Arabic):* I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States on draft resolution A/49/L.61, which relates to the Middle East peace process wherein the Arab States reaffirm their complete support for the ongoing peace process, which began with the convening of the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991 and, once again, voice the hope that this process will arrive at a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East that will guarantee complete withdrawal by Israel's forces from the occupied Arab territories and the exercise by the Palestinian people of all its legitimate national rights.

The Arab Group wishes to declare here its complete solidarity with Lebanon on the need for the immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978). For the second consecutive year, the Group has made considerable efforts to get the States that authored the draft resolution to make a clear reference in the text of the draft resolution, to Security Council resolution 425 (1978) in view of the fact that Lebanon agreed to participate in the Madrid Peace Conference with the aim of securing the implementation of that very resolution.

Moreover, the achievement of comprehensive peace in the Middle East will not be possible unless Israel withdraws from all the Lebanese territory, which is precisely what resolution 425 (1978) calls for. Unfortunately, the efforts of the Group of Arab States and of many other States have not been successful and, once again, have been met with rejection as they did last year. The Arab States voice their regret that it has not been possible to achieve consensus on a draft resolution that relates to the Middle East peace process, which enjoys every support and upon which we pin great hopes that a comprehensive, just and lasting peace will be achieved in the Middle East.

Mr. Ladsous (France) (*interpretation from French*): This year there have been promising developments in the peace process, and the leading players in the process were deserving recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. My delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate them and to express its satisfaction that they took advantage of the Oslo ceremony to step up their efforts. Substantial progress has been made in relations between Israel and Jordan, the question of Palestine and regional cooperation. It is right for the General Assembly to welcome this progress through a new draft resolution on the peace process in the Middle East.

As it did last year on a similar draft resolution, France will vote in favour of draft resolution A/49/L.61 and Corr.1, which crowns a set of draft resolutions devoted to the Middle East and which has been thoroughly updated and improved. Like last year, too, France's support of this positive draft resolution stops short of sponsorship. There is a well-known reason for this, which my delegation explained last year. In our view, the absence of a reference to Security Council resolution 425 (1978) constitutes a regrettable lacuna. France attaches particular importance to respect for the principles established by that text and would have liked to see this opportunity taken to reaffirm the United Nations commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

The arguments put forward by the sponsors of the draft resolution for refusing to make reference to resolution 425 (1978) are not convincing. Israel avers that it has no territorial claim on Lebanon and that it is motivated solely by concern for its own security. The sponsors of the peace process, for their part, state their conviction that peace must be just, comprehensive and lasting. No one can imagine such a peace as long as Lebanese soil remains illegally occupied by foreign troops.

All the countries of the region must be included in the emerging settlement. Progress has been made on the Syrian track of the negotiations, but it has been too limited. On the other hand, there have been no tangible accomplishments on the Lebanese track. It is time the parties undertook serious discussions based on the very principles that made it possible to achieve peace with several countries already. France, for its part, will continue to give its political, economic and financial support to the process initiated in Madrid.

Mr. Cárdenas (Argentina) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: The Argentine Republic is following closely and with particular attention the promising developments taking place in the Middle East region. In this respect, we acknowledge the moderation reflected in the draft resolution submitted on the Syrian Golan Heights (A/49/L.60), under agenda item 38.

Having thoroughly analysed the substance of the question of the Golan Heights in the framework of the Argentine Republic's support for Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), we have decided to vote in favour of draft resolution A/49/L.60. This affirmative vote should be understood in the context of my country's express recognition of, and unequivocal support for, the significant progress we have seen in the Middle East. We value and support the important, tireless efforts exerted by the State of Israel and its neighbours, since the Peace Conference in Madrid, to overcome all obstacles and not be held back by hatred or rancour, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. Those efforts are the reflection of our own hopes.

Mr. Moubarak (Lebanon): As it did last year on a similar draft resolution, my delegation will vote against draft resolution A/49/L.61.

Lebanon, which participated wholeheartedly in the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid on 30 October 1991, is the country which has suffered the most from the Arab-Israeli conflict. We therefore feel that we have much to gain from the attainment of the just, lasting, and comprehensive peace that we seek in the region.

However, the draft resolution before us, despite our efforts *vis-à-vis* its sponsors, fails to address our particular concern, which is the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), calling for Israel to withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese territory to Lebanon's internationally recognized boundaries. No real peace in the Middle East can be achieved without this prerequisite. We have reiterated this point time and again — in Madrid, in the bilateral peace talks held in Washington, and in every other international forum.

Once again I would like to recall that Lebanon participated in the Madrid Peace Conference and the subsequent bilateral talks in Washington on the basis of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) in order to end the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. This was confirmed by the letter of assurances dated 18 October 1991 from the Government of the United States, one of the sponsors of the Madrid Peace Conference, to the Government of Lebanon.

Subsequently, Lebanon entered the peace process and participated in it positively and constructively, with a view to seeing resolution 425 (1978) fully implemented. This was done on the clear understanding that the Middle East peace process would provide the framework for finally attaining Israel's implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which it has refused to do for the past 16 years, and particularly since the beginning of the peace process three years ago. Furthermore, the continuation of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, the daily acts of aggression committed by the Israeli forces against Lebanese civilians, and the declarations of Israeli officials on the highest level do not give us any assurances of Israeli compliance with the terms of the draft resolution.

The violent situation prevailing in South Lebanon makes very clear the complete failure of the concept of the security zone established by Israel. Furthermore, the numerous attacks launched by the Israeli Army in the north of that zone underline again, and eloquently, the failure of this concept. We firmly believe that only the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) will be conducive to peace and security in South Lebanon.

Lebanon had keenly hoped that this draft resolution could be adopted by consensus in order to express the unconditional support of the international community for the Middle East peace process. Security Council resolution 425 (1978) is a clear-cut resolution. Indeed, since 1978 the Council has constantly renewed the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

As an essential participant in the Middle East peace process, Lebanon is casting a negative vote on the draft resolution submitted to the Assembly. The international community will take the full measure of the meaning and the importance of our vote, which underlines clearly, without any shadow of a doubt, that our position in the bilateral peace talks remains constant and unshakeable. We reiterate our firm demand for the full implementation of resolution 425 (1978).

Furthermore, regarding the fourth and seventh preambular paragraphs and operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/49/L.61 and Corr.1, which mention the multilateral talks, my delegation reiterates once again its well-known and constant position on this subject: Lebanon considers that no multilateral talks should be held until the bilateral talks have ended with a complete agreement between all the participants to the Peace Conference. We continue to believe firmly that the multilateral talks being held today are premature and cannot but be inconclusive.

Finally, I should like to emphasize that Lebanon remains fully committed to the Madrid Peace Conference in order to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. My country will continue to call for the full implementation of resolution 425 (1978) in order to meet the challenge.

Mr. Al-Attar (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Syria has confirmed its commitment to the objective of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of international legality and respect for United Nations resolutions and in accordance with the Madrid formula. As Syria remains committed to the achievement of that objective, we cannot support a draft resolution that relates to the totality of the Middle East peace process and yet makes no mention of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) that relates to Lebanon, which participated in the Madrid Peace Conference and the subsequent bilateral peace talks held at Washington D.C. on the basis of that very resolution.

With regard to the multilateral talks and respective working groups, my country has previously stated that it will not participate in those talks unless substantial and concrete progress is made on the Syrian track.

Therefore, my delegation will cast a negative vote on draft resolution A/49/L.61, "Middle East peace process".

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take decisions on the three draft resolutions under agenda item 38, namely, draft resolutions A/49/L.59, A/49/L.60 and A/49/L.61 and Corr.1.

We turn first to draft resolution A/49/L.59, entitled "Jerusalem".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against: Costa Rica, Israel

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America, Zambia

Draft resolution A/49/L.59 was adopted by 138 votes to 2, with 7 abstentions (resolution 49/87 A).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution A/49/L.60 is entitled "The Syrian Golan".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, China, Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel, United States of America

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay

Draft resolution A/49/L.60 was adopted by 77 votes to 2, with 70 abstentions (resolution 49/87 B).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution A/49/l.61 and Corr.1 is entitled "Middle East peace process".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Syrian Arab Republic

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Sudan

Draft resolution A/49/L.61 and Corr.1 was adopted by 149 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions (resolution 49/88).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Several representatives wish to speak in explanation of vote. May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Parker (United States of America): My Government's views are well known on resolutions that seek to address issues being negotiated between parties in the region. This Assembly does not encourage or support that process by continuing to promote resolutions that are divisive and clearly take sides in the negotiations. It is also not helpful, in my Government's view, to adopt resolutions which seek to prejudge the outcome of negotiations.

My Government is again disappointed by the adoption of draft resolution A/49/L.60, concerning the Golan Heights. While my Government voted in favour of Security Council resolution 497 (1981), on the status of the Golan Heights, we are convinced that draft resolution A/49/L.60, like others which deal with issues under negotiation, serves to complicate the achievement of a mutually acceptable outcome. It is up to Syria and Israel to negotiate arrangements concerning the Golan Heights. The two parties are deeply involved in this delicate process. They, and they alone, have to resolve their differences at the negotiating table.

The United States has long maintained that it is essential to pursue a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. We are committed to this goal in our role as full partner and active intermediary in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

As has been our practice in the past on similar draft resolutions, the United States abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/49/L.59, concerning Jerusalem. We are convinced that Jerusalem should remain undivided and that its future should be decided through permanent status negotiations, as the parties agreed in their historic 13 September 1993 Declaration of Principles. This Assembly should not interject itself into this most complex and emotional issue when the parties themselves have decided to leave discussion concerning Jerusalem to a future time.

The actions of the parties in the region demonstrate that the hard task of peacemaking is fully under way. The General Assembly should support and encourage their political resolve and spirit of give and take, and not indulge in adopting resolutions which undermine that process.

Mr. Samadi (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/49/L.59 and A/49/L.60. However, I should like to express my delegation's reservations on those parts of these resolutions which might be construed as implying any recognition of Israel.

Regarding the subject of the draft resolution contained in document A/49/L.61 and Corr.1, the position of my Government is on record. I would just like to mention that we believe that the recent agreements will not lead to the full restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Moreover, this resolution makes no reference to the withdrawal of occupying forces from Lebanon.

Mr. Amer (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*interpretation from Arabic*): My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolutions contained in document A/49/L.59, on Jerusalem, and in document A/49/L.60, on the Syrian Golan. However, my delegation wishes to express its reservations on the contents of those resolutions, especially with regard to any recognition of Israel.

My Government voted against draft resolution A/49/L.61 and Corr.1, entitled "Middle East peace process", because it does not request Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon in conformity with Security Council resolution 425 (1978), nor does it contain all the elements necessary for complete restoration of peace in the Middle East.

My country favours a comprehensive, just and lasting peace that will ensure Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon, and the implementation of all the rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to return to its homeland and its right to self-determination. We reiterate that the peace formula used in the case of South Africa could be an example for the resolution of the Palestinian problem and the establishment of the Palestinian State, of a country where Jews and Arabs could live together.

Mr. Wolff (Germany): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union, Austria, Finland and Sweden.

The European Union continues fully to support the peace process in the Middle East, which aims at achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. The mutual recognition of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the signing of the Declaration of Principles on 13 September 1993 constituted an important first step in that direction. The European Union has committed itself to supporting the peace process in the form of a joint action that mobilizes the political, economic and financial resources of the Union. As the major donor of assistance to the Palestinian people, the European Union has a great interest in ensuring the rapid, efficient and transparent implementation of aid programmes. Within the framework of the multilateral tracks, the European Union pursues the goal of consolidating peace by setting up regional cooperation.

We are following with great interest the improvement of the situation in Lebanon, but stability remains fragile there in the absence of a comprehensive settlement for the entire Middle East region. We continue to plead for the full restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity. In that context, the European Union reiterates its insistence on the full implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), adopted on 19 March 1978. We urge the parties to make progress in the bilateral negotiations and to bring them to a successful end.

With respect to draft resolution A/49/L.60, entitled "The Syrian Golan", the European Union is well aware of the ongoing negotiations between the parties in the framework of the Madrid peace process. Both sides have declared their willingness to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to this question on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). It is our view that such a solution has to be found between the parties, taking into account international law and the legitimate concerns of both sides.

The European Union welcomes the substantial progress demonstrated by the fact that this draft resolution now takes into account new and positive developments in the peace process. The Union was involved in serious discussions on further improvements of the text. The negotiations failed only narrowly to yield positive results. However, we take note of the positive spirit in which those negotiations have been conducted. We are looking forward to further meaningful exchanges in that spirit.

Furthermore, the European Union reiterates its well-known position that the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and the extension of Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to this territory are illegal.

Mr. Hasan (Iraq) (*interpretation from Arabic*): My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution on the occupied Syrian Golan which is contained in document A/49/L.60. We should like to express our reservation with regard to the formula used in the seventh preambular paragraph of the resolution.

Mr. Eltinay (Sudan) (*interpretation from Arabic*): My delegation abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/49/L.60, although we are fully convinced that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East must be achieved. This draft resolution did not mention Security Council resolution 425 (1978) at all. No reason was given for that omission. We feel that a peaceful and lasting settlement to the Middle East problem must provide for Israel's total withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including southern Lebanon, the Syrian Golan and the occupied West Bank. All the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people must be guaranteed.

We reaffirm our conviction that the international community must work to achieve a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the problem on the basis of the resolutions that reflect the truth, and without losing sight of the important elements that must form the basis of such a settlement.

The President (*interpretation from French*): In accordance with General Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX), dated 20 November 1974, and resolution 43/177, of 15 December 1988, I call on the Observer for Palestine.

Mr. Al-Kidwa (Observer for Palestine) (*interpretation from Arabic*): We have expressed our position before the General Assembly on many occasions during this session. We have also expressed our sincerest gratitude to the Member States that have assisted us and cooperated with us in reaching the excellent results that have been achieved at this session.

We should like at this time to reiterate our thanks to those States for the adoption of the three draft resolutions submitted under the agenda item on the situation in the Middle East, and in particular the resolution on Jerusalem. This is a question of paramount importance to the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nation, and indeed to all the believers of the three religions the world over. The Holy City of Jerusalem has been and remains a key to peace, to the achievement of a definitive settlement on the Israeli track and of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East region as a whole.

We took an active part in the negotiations on the draft resolution entitled "Middle East peace process". The parties concerned were able to remove certain obstacles they had encountered. Indeed, certain controversial issues were set aside. We are grateful to the original sponsors of the draft resolution for the understanding they showed of our position and that of the Arab Group of States on this question.

In general terms, since we are a principal party to the peace process, we are in favour of this resolution and find it useful. At the same time, we must recall our reservations on paragraph 3 of section B of the Washington Declaration, concluded between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Israel on 25 July 1994, and on paragraph 2 of article 9 of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty. These two paragraphs refer to Jerusalem. We expressed our position in detail on this matter in an official letter which was addressed to the Secretary-General and which was published as document A/49/288 dated 29 July 1994. This position, however, should not be interpreted as meaning that we are not in favour of progress in the peace negotiations on the Israeli-Jordanian track.

May I, in conclusion, thank you, Mr. President, for the position you have taken.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 38?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 17 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(h) Appointment of the members of the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women

The President (*interpretation from French*): Members will recall that at the 75th plenary meeting, on 5 December last, I informed the Assembly that the terms of office of the present five members of the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women, appointed under General Assembly decisions 46/311 A, B and C of 13 November and 20 December 1991 and 22 May 1992, would expire on 31 December 1994 and that, following consultations, I had appointed Indonesia and Uganda as members of the Consultative Committee for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1995.

Following further consultations, I have appointed Norway, Peru and Poland as members of the Consultative Committee for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1995.

May I consider that the General Assembly takes note of these appointments?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (h) of agenda item 17?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 18 (*continued*)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/49/23 (Parts I-VIII), A/AC.109/1179-1183, 1185-1186, 1188-1195 and 1197)

Report of the Secretary-General (A/49/492)

Draft resolutions (A/49/L.51, A/49/L.52)

The President (*interpretation from French*): Members will recall that the Assembly held the debate on agenda item 18 at its 83rd meeting, on 9 December last.

I should like to inform the Assembly that the representative of Sierra Leone has requested to participate in the debate on this item. Inasmuch as the list of speakers was closed on 9 December, may I ask the Assembly whether there is any objection to the inclusion of the name of the delegation of Sierra Leone in the list of speakers?

There appears to be no objection, and the name of the delegation of Sierra Leone is therefore included in the list of speakers.

Mr. Bangali (Sierra Leone): It is with pleasure that, on behalf of the delegation of Sierra Leone, I am participating once again in the debate on agenda item 18: "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples". I do so also in my capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples — the Special Committee of 24 — and I wish to endorse the statement made on Friday, 9 December last, by the Permanent Representative of Cuba, the Acting Chairman of the Committee of 24, who spoke on behalf of the Special Committee.

My delegation welcomes the accession to independence of Palau, the last Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and its admission to the United Nations yesterday as the one hundred and eighty-fifth Member. As we welcome this new independent country in our midst, we express the hope that the Republic of Palau will participate effectively in the work of the Organization, including that of the Special Committee on decolonization.

As we did last year, my delegation wishes to express its satisfaction again this year with the work of the Special Committee, especially its continued application during the past year, of new measures aimed at enhancing its efficiency through its approach to, and the methodology of, its work. And in a continually changing world, particularly on the political scene, the Special Committee on decolonization must, along with other related United Nations bodies, take pride in its achievements, especially on the African continent, with the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa — a question that had featured on its programme of work for many, many years — culminating in the holding of the first pluralistic, non-racial and democratic elections in that country, in April this year, and the subsequent installation of the Government of National Unity.

In other areas, however, the work of the Committee of 24 is far from finished, with a little over a third of the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism having already elapsed. This underscores the need for the Committee's continued existence and the provision of adequate resources to enable it to carry out its mandate. We therefore commend the two draft resolutions, contained in documents A/49/L.51 and A/49/L.52, respectively, for adoption by consensus by the General Assembly.

My delegation wishes to reiterate its oft-expressed concern over the lack of cooperation with the Committee and the non-participation in its work by a number of administering Powers. We believe that the cooperation of administering Powers is crucial to the proper and effective functioning of the Committee of 24. One area where the Committee of 24 continues to seek cooperation with administering Powers concerns the facilitation of the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. Visiting missions provide the most effective means of obtaining first-hand information on developments in the Territories and of ascertaining the situation on the ground and the views of the people of the Territory with regard to their future status. My delegation can attest to this fact because we participated in the last Visiting Mission to Tokelau.

We therefore urge those administering Powers that have withheld their cooperation from the Committee of 24 to reconsider their decisions and participate in the work of the Committee, whose members are not only ready but eager to discuss those issues that are keeping them away from the Committee, with a view to finding solutions to them.

I cannot conclude this statement without expressing my delegation's, and my own very personal, gratitude to the Government and people of New Zealand for the warm hospitality graciously accorded to me and to the other members of the team during our visit to Tokelau and New Zealand in July and August this year. The trip to various countries in that region — the South Pacific — was for me a particularly enriching and rewarding experience, which I will treasure for the rest of my life. My gratitude also goes to the people on the three atolls of Tokelau — Atafu, Fakaofu and Nukonunu — for their hospitality and the generous gifts they gave to all the members of the Visiting Mission.

I should like to conclude by conveying my appreciation to the members of the Committee of 24, especially the members of the African Group and the Bureau, for the confidence they have shown in my delegation and the purposefulness of work exhibited during the deliberations of the Committee in the years I have been Vice-Chairman. I also wish to commend the staff of the secretariat of the Committee for always ensuring the Committee's smooth functioning. As we approach the fiftieth anniversary of this body, let us keep the mandate of the Special Committee on decolonization alive until colonialism is eradicated.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

The Assembly will now take decisions on draft resolutions A/49/L.51 and A/49/L.52.

I should like to announce that the following countries have joined the sponsors of draft resolutions A/49/L.51 and A/49/L.52: Haiti, the Marshall Islands, Mali, Namibia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

I call on the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Perfiliev (Director, General Assembly Affairs Division) *(interpretation from French)*: As regards paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/49/L.51, a seminar is planned in the Caribbean region in April 1995. It will be held in the framework of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The seminar will last three days, with two meetings a day. Interpretation and documentation services will be required in English, Spanish and French. The number of pages involved will be 200 before, 50 during, and 50 after the seminar.

We are operating on the assumption that the conference services required for the seminar will be provided from the resources available under section 25 (e), "Office of Conference and Support Services", of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. This means that no additional resources will be required to cover the cost of these conference services.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will first take a decision on draft resolution A/49/L.51, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine

Draft resolution A/49/L.51 was adopted by 128 votes to 2, with 26 abstentions (resolution 49/89).

The President *(interpretation from French)*: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/49/L.52, entitled "Dissemination of information on decolonization".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Draft resolution A/49/L.52 was adopted by 130 votes to 2, with 24 abstentions (resolution 49/90).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Several representatives wish to make statements in explanation of vote. May I remind members that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, statements in explanation of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Gelber (United States of America): We were obliged to vote against draft resolutions A/49/L.51 and A/49/L.52, on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

While we welcome changes from last year's resolutions, we do not believe that sufficient improvements have been made in the thrust and import of this year's draft resolutions to merit our support. On the contrary, as the United Nations fast approaches its fiftieth anniversary year, at a time when we should be looking to meeting the challenges of the 1990s and the twenty-first century, these resolutions are relics of outmoded ways of thinking. They misrepresent and distort the record of the administrators of Non-Self-Governing Territories; they equate the role of the administrators with colonialism and wrongly label "foreign economic interests" and "foreign military activities" as contrary to the interests of Territories and their peoples; and they fail to give due weight to the wishes of the peoples concerned, to important progress made toward freedom over the past 30 years and to the benefits derived by Non-Self-Governing Territories from administrators that have faithfully discharged their obligations to promote the well-being of the people of the Territories concerned.

We would hope that future resolutions would redress these imbalances and serve as a clarion call for cooperation. The future United Nations must be built not on backward-looking resolutions but on bold, constructive action.

Mr. Gomersall (United Kingdom): Once again, I regret that the British delegation has found it necessary to vote against the draft resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/49/L.51) and on the dissemination of information on decolonization (A/49/L.52).

In my delegation's statement in the Fourth Committee and in various explanations of vote and position in that forum we acknowledged that in a rapidly changing world the Special Committee had made an effort to reflect present-day realities. We welcome these efforts and we hope they will continue. But we still have fundamental objections to the implication that self-determination automatically equates with independence, ignoring the existence of other options, and to the references to issues irrelevant to decolonization, such as military activities. We do not believe that the presence of military bases in our dependent Territories could in any way constitute an obstacle to the granting of independence or impede those Territories from expressing their views on self-determination.

The two draft resolutions submitted to the General Assembly do nothing to advance the wishes and interests of the indigenous peoples of the remaining dependent

Territories, which remain the foundation of my Government's policies.

Mr. Rowe (Australia): The Australian delegation has just voted in favour of the draft resolutions contained in document A/49/L.51, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", and document A/49/L.52, "Dissemination of information on decolonization".

These positive votes are a reflection of our strong support for a meaningful United Nations role in the decolonization process, particularly as a number of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are our near neighbours — small islands in the South Pacific.

My delegation is encouraged by the fact that outdated and inappropriate references from the resolutions of previous years, whose revision and/or deletion we had called for, do not appear in the resolutions just adopted. We note, however, that the texts of these resolutions are virtually identical to those adopted at last year's General Assembly.

In preparation for the next session of the General Assembly, we encourage the Special Committee to review further the language of these texts, particularly with respect to foreign economic interests, with a view to achieving greater balance and objectivity and bearing always in mind the goal of ensuring that the United Nations decolonization processes remain consensual, meaningful and relevant to the situations and interests of the colonial peoples whose progress towards self-determination we are charged to oversee.

The President *(interpretation from French):* May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 18 as a whole?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

United Nations

A/49/PV.91*

General Assembly

Forty-ninth Session

91st Meeting

Friday, 16 December 1994, 10 a.m.

New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Essy . . . . (Côte d'Ivoire)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Agenda item 38 *(continued)*

The situation in the Middle East

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/49/556 and A/49/636)

Draft resolutions (A/49/L.59, A/49/L.60 and A/49/L.61)

The President *(interpretation from French)*: Members will recall that the Assembly concluded its debate on agenda item 38 at its 73rd meeting, on 1 December 1994.

I call on the representative of Egypt to introduce draft resolutions A/49/L.59 and A/49/L.60.

Mr. Elaraby (Egypt) *(interpretation from Arabic)*: On behalf of the Group of Arab States I am pleased to introduce two of the draft resolutions presented under agenda item 38.

The first draft resolution, contained in document A/49/L.59, relates to Al-Quds. I introduce this draft on behalf of the delegations of Algeria, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

In its preamble, the draft resolution refers to all the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly since 1981 which stipulate categorically that all legislative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, with the aim of altering the legal status or the demographic nature of the Holy City of Al-Quds are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith.

The draft resolution also refers to Security Council resolution 478 (1980), in which the Council, *inter alia*, decided not to recognize the so-called Basic Law of Israel concerning the city of Al-Quds. In that resolution, the Council called upon those States that had established diplomatic missions in Al-Quds to withdraw those missions.

The draft resolution reiterates the importance of implementing the foregoing resolutions.

The sponsors of this draft resolution express the hope that Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Al-Quds, will be completed in order for peace to be achieved in the Middle East and in order for the city of Al-Quds to become a symbol of peace, peaceful coexistence and harmony amongst the three monotheistic religions.

The second draft resolution, contained in document A/49/L.60, relates to the Syrian Golan. I introduce that draft resolution on behalf of Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one month of the date of the meeting*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Section, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

The draft resolution reiterates the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and the applicability to the occupied Syrian Golan of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

The draft resolution also recalls that Israel has not yet complied with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and that the measure adopted by Israel with regard to annexation of the Golan runs flagrantly counter to that resolution.

The draft resolution also refers to the peace process which began with the convening of the Madrid Peace Conference, in the hope that tangible progress will be achieved in the negotiations now taking place in the context of that process on both the Syrian and the Lebanese tracks.

The draft resolution calls for the complete withdrawal by Israel from all the Syrian Golan.

In calling for speedy progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, I voice the wish of all the sponsors of this draft resolution to witness the implementation of all the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly since this will be the means of bringing about the desired comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East region.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: I call on the representative of Norway to introduce draft resolution A/49/L.61.

Mr. Aass (Norway): I take great pleasure in introducing, together with the Russian Federation and the United States of America, draft resolution A/49/L.61, on the Middle East peace process. The following countries have joined in sponsoring the draft resolution: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uruguay.

This draft resolution is a follow-up to resolution 48/58 on the Middle East peace process, which was introduced for the very first time last year.

Under the draft resolution, the Assembly would welcome and give full support to the achievements of the peace process so far. The text also includes references to the agreements and treaties entered into during the past year. The implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements for the Palestinians is moving steadily forward, although behind schedule, and the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area, establishing the Palestinian Authority, was signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) at Cairo on 4 May this year. Normalization of the relations between Israel and its Arab neighbours continues, and on 26 October this year Israel and Jordan signed the historic Treaty of Peace. These new important steps are reflected in both the preambular and the operative parts of the draft resolution.

The parties deserve our praise for their outstanding courage and commitment to moving ahead with the peace process despite internal opposition and attempts to derail the peace process through violence and terror.

In operative paragraph 4, the Assembly would stress the need to achieve rapid progress on the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations within the peace process initiated in Madrid. It is our hope that the bilateral talks between Israel and Syria and between Israel and Lebanon will be inspired by these positive developments and will soon lead to concrete results towards peace, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions. With regard to the Israel-Lebanon track, Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 will be an important point of reference.

The Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit, which was held at Casablanca from 30 October to 1 November this year, clearly demonstrated that a profound change of climate has occurred in the Middle East. New possibilities for regional cooperation have opened up, which in turn should inspire further progress in the peace process. The declaration of the Casablanca Summit is welcomed in the last preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

An important element of the draft resolution before the Assembly is the call upon Member States to expedite economic, financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian people during the interim period, to extend such assistance to parties in the region and to render support for the peace process. Increased assistance from the international community is particularly important in the present phase in the light of the deteriorating economic situation in the Palestinian self-rule areas. We see that last year's optimism and hopes for a better life have given way to disappointment and political infighting on the Palestinian side. In the absence of quick and visible improvements, the whole Middle East peace process could be in danger.

Operative paragraph 7 points to the positive contribution that an active United Nations role can have in the Middle East peace process and in assisting in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area and the agreement on preparatory transfer of powers and responsibilities. The appointment by the Secretary-General of a Special Coordinator in the occupied territories, mentioned in paragraph 5, has underlined the commitment of the United Nations to strengthening further its role in the peace process.

The purpose of this draft resolution is not only to welcome the achievements of the peace process so far, but also to register the strong support of United Nations Members for further efforts towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Many important issues remain to be solved. And this year the draft resolution does not mention issues which are subjects for negotiation between the parties. We believe that the Assembly should be careful not to add to or detract from what only the parties themselves can decide. We do, however, consider it vitally important that at this critical stage the world community express its continued support for the peace process through the General Assembly. We therefore recommend this draft resolution for unanimous adoption.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I call next on the representative of the Russian Federation, also to introduce draft resolution A/49/L.61.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): The delegation of the Russian Federation, as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process, is honoured to join Norway and the United States of America in introducing draft resolution A/49/L.61. The main purpose of the draft resolution is to strengthen the positive elements and achievements of the Middle East peace process and to guide the parties towards further practical results in all areas of the negotiations.

Since the beginning of the Madrid peace process, impressive progress has been achieved. The Palestinian self-governing body is being established, and work is under way on other aspects of the process. We are pleased by developments in the process, and want all aspects of the conflict to be resolved without prejudice to any of the parties to the conflict. That, indeed, is the logic of the Madrid formula for the peace process.

Guided by the basic principle that regional conflicts must be unblocked in the interests of improving the overall international climate, Russia has made the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East an important priority in its foreign policy. We are actively promoting progress in the region — which, I should note, is very near the southern borders of the Russian Federation.

We consider that the signing of the Jordan-Israel Treaty of Peace, which also bears the signature of the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, marked the beginning of a new era in the peace process. The next important event was the beginning of the establishment on the ground of Palestinian self-rule.

On the whole, we are satisfied with the dynamics of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, although with respect to the establishment of an autonomous authority the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization is facing considerable concrete difficulties. At the moment, talks in Cairo between Israel and the Palestinians on elections to the Palestinian Council, the self-government body for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, are of great importance.

Material support from outside is necessary to ensure the establishment of Palestinian self-rule, and in the draft resolution the Assembly would call upon States to expedite economic, financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian people during the interim period. For its part, Russia is extending assistance to the Palestinians, including equipment for the Palestinian police and security forces. We are also considering projects for possible Russian participation in the economic and social development of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

By another very important paragraph of the draft resolution, the Assembly would consider that an active

United Nations role in the Middle East peace process and in assisting in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles could make a positive contribution. We believe that the United Nations and its specialized agencies, especially the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), have great experience in a variety of humanitarian and technical programmes in the occupied territories. Their potential could be most useful in the process of implementing the Declaration of Principles.

In the draft resolution the Assembly would also stress the need to achieve rapid progress on the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

In this context, we are concerned at the lack of synchronization of the negotiating tracks. At this stage the primary need is to get the Syrian-Israeli talks going again. Intensive contacts between Russia and Syria and Israel have identified, in the positions of both parties, specific elements of flexibility sufficiently meaningful to convince the sponsors that they should aim at achieving progress. In this regard, it is important that things be speeded up.

The outcome of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations will largely determine the means by which the Lebanese-Israeli problem can be unblocked. At the same time, the situation in Lebanon has its own characteristics. We assume that Security Council resolution 425 (1978), whose purpose is to ensure Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, and security in the northern part of Israel, still provides a specific international legal basis for the settlement of this question.

We are convinced that the adoption of this draft resolution will provide important political support for the process of building a post-confrontation Middle East based on wide international cooperation and accelerated economic development in the region. Russia attaches great significance to the multilateral aspect of the peace process, which is becoming more and more specific, and is of the opinion that the United Nations, including the Security Council, will continue to help advance the process in all its aspects.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: I now call on the representative of the United States of America, also to introduce draft resolution A/49/L.61.

Mr. Gnehm (United States of America): The draft resolution that we offer today — A/49/L.61 — gives the General Assembly an opportunity to reaffirm its support for the Middle East peace process inaugurated in Madrid in October 1991. Since that historic beginning we have witnessed the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization; the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area; the 29 August 1994 agreement on the preparatory transfer of powers and responsibilities; the agreement between Israel and Jordan on the Common Agenda; and the Jordan-Israel Treaty of Peace of 26 October 1994. All of these constitute significant steps on the way towards achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

It is necessary and appropriate that the world should offer its encouragement to the parties as they work to overcome the legacy of a past marked by hatred, war, suspicion and distrust. It is also imperative that the world support the parties as they face the challenge of those who seek, by violence and terrorism, to undermine and reverse the strides that they have taken so far. The parties themselves have reiterated their condemnation of violence and terrorism. They remain committed to the resolution of their differences through negotiation, despite the brutal and bloody efforts of the enemies of peace and reconciliation.

It is the long-standing position of the United States that the just and lasting peace that we seek for the Middle East must be comprehensive. We therefore strongly hope and desire that progress will soon become evident in the efforts of Syria and Israel and of Lebanon and Israel to negotiate peace. In this context, I wish to reaffirm my Government's commitment to Lebanon's political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Those objectives were set forth in Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which my Government supports.

My Government has been deeply involved in numerous efforts to see that appropriate economic assistance is channelled in support of peace. This draft resolution clearly reflects the international community's view that such assistance for development is a crucial priority and should be supported by it.

The draft resolution is a clear signal to the parties that the international community recognizes and supports their courageous efforts to reshape the world in which their children will live. It also constitutes recognition of what they have already achieved in direct negotiation on their differences. The General Assembly's adoption of this draft resolution will be a resounding vote of confidence in the peace process begun in Madrid.

In closing, I wish to say that the United States is proud once again to have worked with the representatives of Russia, Norway and many other countries in sponsoring this draft resolution. We invite the representatives of all States to join in expressing support for the peoples of the Middle East as they continue their efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We shall now proceed to consider draft resolutions A/49/L.59, A/49/L.60 and A/49/L.61.

I should like to inform representatives that Greece and Paraguay have become sponsors of draft resolution A/49/L.61.

Several representatives wish to make statements in explanation of vote before the voting. May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Elaraby (Egypt) *(interpretation from Arabic):* I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States on draft resolution A/49/L.61, which relates to the Middle East peace process. In this draft resolution the Arab States reaffirm their complete support for the ongoing peace process, which began with the convening of the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991, and once again voice the hope that this process will arrive at a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East that will guarantee complete withdrawal by Israel's forces from the occupied Arab territories and the exercise by the Palestinian people of all its legitimate national rights.

The Arab Group wishes to declare here its complete solidarity with Lebanon on the need for the immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978). For the second consecutive year, the Group has made considerable efforts to get the States that sponsored the draft resolution to make a clear reference in its text to Security Council resolution 425 (1978), in view of the fact that Lebanon agreed to participate in the Madrid Peace Conference with the aim of securing the implementation of that very resolution.

Moreover, comprehensive peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved unless Israel withdraws from all the Lebanese territory, which is precisely what resolution 425 (1978) calls for. Unfortunately, the efforts of the Group of Arab States and of many other States have not been successful and, once again, have been met with rejection as they did last year. The Arab States voice their regret that it has not been possible to achieve consensus on a draft resolution that relates to the Middle East peace process, which enjoys every support and upon which we pin great hopes that a comprehensive, just and lasting peace will be achieved in the Middle East.

Mr. Ladsous (France) *(interpretation from French)*: This year there have been promising developments in the peace process, and the leading players in the process were deserving recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. My delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate them and to express its satisfaction that they took advantage of the Oslo ceremony to step up their efforts. Substantial progress has been made in relations between Israel and Jordan, the question of Palestine, and regional cooperation. It is right for the General Assembly to welcome this progress through a new draft resolution on the peace process in the Middle East.

As it did last year on a similar draft resolution, France will vote in favour of draft resolution A/49/L.61, which crowns a set of draft resolutions devoted to the Middle East and which has been thoroughly updated and improved. Like last year, too, France's support of this positive draft resolution stops short of sponsorship. There is a well-known reason for this, which my delegation explained last year. In our view, the absence of a reference to Security Council resolution 425 (1978) constitutes a regrettable lacuna. France attaches particular importance to respect for the principles established by that text and would have liked to see this opportunity taken to reaffirm the United Nations commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

The arguments put forward by the sponsors of the draft resolution for refusing to make reference to resolution 425 (1978) are not convincing. Israel avers that it has no territorial claim on Lebanon and that it is motivated solely by concern for its own security. The sponsors of the peace process, for their part, state their conviction that peace must be just, comprehensive and lasting. No one can imagine such a peace as long as Lebanese soil remains illegally occupied by foreign troops.

All the countries of the region must be included in the emerging settlement. Progress has been made on the Syrian track of the negotiations, but it has been too limited. On the other hand, there have been no tangible accomplishments on the Lebanese track. It is time the parties undertook serious discussions based on the very principles that made it possible to achieve peace with several countries already. France, for its part, will continue to give its political, economic and financial support to the process initiated in Madrid.

Mr. Cárdenas (Argentina) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: The Argentine Republic is following closely and with particular attention the promising developments taking place in the Middle East region. In this respect, we acknowledge the moderation reflected in the draft resolution submitted on the Syrian Golan Heights (A/49/L.60), under agenda item 38.

Having thoroughly analysed the substance of the question of the Golan Heights in the framework of the Argentine Republic's support for Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), we have decided to vote in favour of draft resolution A/49/L.60. This affirmative vote should be understood in the context of my country's express recognition of, and unequivocal support for, the significant progress we have seen in the Middle East. We value and support the important, tireless efforts exerted by the State of Israel and its neighbours, since the Peace Conference in Madrid, to overcome all obstacles and not be held back by hatred or rancour, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. Those efforts are the reflection of our own hopes.

Mr. Moubarak (Lebanon): As it did last year on a similar draft resolution, my delegation will vote against draft resolution A/49/L.61.

Lebanon, which participated wholeheartedly in the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid on 30 October 1991, is the country which has suffered the most from the Arab-Israeli conflict. We therefore feel that we have much to gain from the attainment of the just, lasting, and comprehensive peace that we seek in the region.

However, the draft resolution before us, despite our efforts *vis-à-vis* its sponsors, fails to address our particular concern, which is the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), calling for Israel to withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese territory to Lebanon's internationally recognized boundaries. No real peace in the Middle East can be achieved without this prerequisite. We have reiterated this point time and again — in Madrid, in the bilateral peace talks held in Washington, and in every other international forum.

Once again I would like to recall that Lebanon participated in the Madrid Peace Conference and the subsequent bilateral talks in Washington on the basis of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) in order to end the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. This was confirmed by the letter of assurances dated 18 October 1991 from the Government of the United States, one of the sponsors of the Madrid Peace Conference, to the Government of Lebanon.

Subsequently, Lebanon entered the peace process and participated in it positively and constructively, with a view to seeing resolution 425 (1978) fully implemented. This was done on the clear understanding that the Middle East peace process would provide the framework for finally attaining Israel's implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which it has refused to do for the past 16 years, and particularly since the beginning of the peace process three years ago. Furthermore, the continuation of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, the daily acts of aggression committed by the Israeli forces against Lebanese civilians, and the declarations of Israeli officials on the highest level do not give us any assurances of Israeli compliance with the terms of the draft resolution.

The violent situation prevailing in South Lebanon makes very clear the complete failure of the concept of the security zone established by Israel. Furthermore, the numerous attacks launched by the Israeli Army in the north of that zone underline again, and eloquently, the failure of this concept. We firmly believe that only the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) will be conducive to peace and security in South Lebanon.

Lebanon had keenly hoped that this draft resolution could be adopted by consensus in order to express the unconditional support of the international community for the Middle East peace process. Security Council resolution 425 (1978) is a clear-cut resolution. Indeed, since 1978 the Council has constantly renewed the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

As an essential participant in the Middle East peace process, Lebanon is casting a negative vote on the draft resolution submitted to the Assembly. The international community will take the full measure of the meaning and the importance of our vote, which underlines clearly, without any shadow of a doubt, that our position in the bilateral peace talks remains constant and unshakeable. We reiterate our firm demand for the full implementation of resolution 425 (1978).

Furthermore, regarding the fourth and seventh preambular paragraphs and operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/49/L.61, which mention the multilateral talks, my delegation reiterates once again its well-known and constant position on this subject: Lebanon considers that no multilateral talks should be held until the bilateral talks have ended with a complete agreement between all the participants in the Peace Conference. We continue to believe firmly that the multilateral talks being held today are premature and cannot but be inconclusive.

Finally, I should like to emphasize that Lebanon remains fully committed to the Madrid Peace Conference in order to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. My country will continue to call for the full implementation of resolution 425 (1978) in order to meet the challenge.

Mr. Al-Attar (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Syria has confirmed its commitment to the objective of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of international legality and respect for United Nations resolutions and in accordance with the Madrid formula. As Syria remains committed to the achievement of that objective, we cannot support a draft resolution that relates to the totality of the Middle East peace process and yet makes no mention of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), relating to Lebanon, which participated in the Madrid Peace Conference and the subsequent bilateral peace talks held at Washington D.C. on the basis of that very resolution.

With regard to the multilateral talks and respective working groups, my country has previously stated that it will not participate in those talks unless substantial and concrete progress is made on the Syrian track.

Therefore, my delegation will cast a negative vote on draft resolution A/49/L.61, "Middle East peace process".

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take decisions on the three draft resolutions under agenda item 38, namely, draft resolutions A/49/L.59, A/49/L.60 and A/49/L.61.

We turn first to draft resolution A/49/L.59, entitled "Jerusalem".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against: Costa Rica, Israel

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America, Zambia

Draft resolution A/49/L.59 was adopted by 138 votes to 2, with 7 abstentions (resolution 49/87 A).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Lithuania, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Zambia advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour; the delegation of Papua New Guinea had intended to abstain.]

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution A/49/L.60 is entitled "The Syrian Golan".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, China, Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel, United States of America

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay

Draft resolution A/49/L.60 was adopted by 77 votes to 2, with 70 abstentions (resolution 49/87 B).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Lithuania and Papua New Guinea advised the Secretariat that they had intended to abstain.]

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution A/49/L.61 is entitled "Middle East peace process".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Syrian Arab Republic

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Sudan

Draft resolution A/49/L.61 was adopted by 149 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions (resolution 49/88).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Lithuania and Papua New Guinea advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The President (*interpretation from French*): Several representatives wish to speak in explanation of vote. May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Parker (United States of America): My Government's views are well known on resolutions that seek to address issues being negotiated between parties in the region. This Assembly does not encourage or support that process by continuing to promote resolutions that are divisive and clearly take sides in the negotiations. It is also not helpful, in my Government's view, to adopt resolutions which seek to prejudge the outcome of negotiations.

My Government is again disappointed by the adoption of draft resolution A/49/L.60, concerning the Golan Heights. While my Government voted in favour of Security Council resolution 497 (1981), on the status of the Golan Heights, we are convinced that draft resolution A/49/L.60, like others which deal with issues under negotiation, serves to complicate the achievement of a mutually acceptable outcome. It is up to Syria and Israel to negotiate arrangements concerning the Golan Heights. The two parties are deeply involved in this delicate process. They, and they alone, have to resolve their differences at the negotiating table.

The United States has long maintained that it is essential to pursue a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. We are committed to this goal in our role as full partner and active intermediary in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

As has been our practice in the past on similar draft resolutions, the United States abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/49/L.59, concerning Jerusalem. We are convinced that Jerusalem should remain undivided and that its future should be decided through permanent status negotiations, as the parties agreed in their historic 13 September 1993 Declaration of Principles. This Assembly should not interject itself into this most complex and emotional issue when the parties themselves have decided to leave discussion concerning Jerusalem to a future time.

The actions of the parties in the region demonstrate that the hard task of peacemaking is fully under way. The General Assembly should support and encourage their political resolve and spirit of give and take, and not indulge in adopting resolutions which undermine that process.

Mr. Samadi (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/49/L.59 and A/49/L.60. However, I should like to express my delegation's reservations on those parts of these resolutions which might be construed as implying any recognition of Israel.

Regarding the subject of the draft resolution contained in document A/49/L.61, the position of my Government is on record. I would just like to mention that we believe that the recent agreements will not lead to the full restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Moreover, this resolution makes no reference to the withdrawal of occupying forces from Lebanon.

Mr. Amer (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*interpretation from Arabic*): My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolutions contained in document A/49/L.59, on Jerusalem, and in document A/49/L.60, on the Syrian Golan. However, my delegation wishes to express its reservations on the contents of those resolutions, especially with regard to any recognition of Israel.

My Government voted against draft resolution A/49/L.61, entitled "Middle East peace process", because it does not request Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon in conformity with Security Council resolution 425 (1978), nor does it contain all the elements necessary for complete restoration of peace in the Middle East.

My country favours a comprehensive, just and lasting peace that will ensure Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon, and the implementation of all the rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to return to its homeland and its right to self-determination. We reiterate that the peace formula used in the case of South Africa could be an example for the resolution of the Palestinian problem and the establishment of the Palestinian State, of a country where Jews and Arabs could live together.

Mr. Wolff (Germany): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union, Austria, Finland and Sweden.

The European Union continues fully to support the peace process in the Middle East, which aims at achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. The mutual recognition of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the signing of the Declaration of Principles on 13 September 1993 constituted an important first step in that direction. The European Union has committed itself to supporting the peace process in the form of a joint action that mobilizes the political, economic and financial resources of the Union. As the major donor of assistance to the Palestinian people, the European Union has a great interest in ensuring the rapid, efficient and transparent implementation of aid programmes. Within the framework of the multilateral tracks, the European Union pursues the goal of consolidating peace by setting up regional cooperation.

We are following with great interest the improvement of the situation in Lebanon, but stability remains fragile there in the absence of a comprehensive settlement for the entire Middle East region. We continue to plead for the full restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity. In that context, the European Union reiterates its insistence on the full implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), adopted on 19 March 1978. We urge the parties to make progress in the bilateral negotiations and to bring them to a successful end.

With respect to draft resolution A/49/L.60, entitled "The Syrian Golan", the European Union is well aware of the ongoing negotiations between the parties in the framework of the Madrid peace process. Both sides have declared their willingness to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to this question on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). It is our view that such a solution has to be found between the parties, taking into account international law and the legitimate concerns of both sides.

The European Union welcomes the substantial progress demonstrated by the fact that this draft resolution now takes into account new and positive developments in the peace process. The Union was involved in serious discussions on further improvements of the text. The negotiations failed only narrowly to yield positive results. However, we take note of the positive spirit in which those negotiations have been conducted. We are looking forward to further meaningful exchanges in that spirit.

Furthermore, the European Union reiterates its well-known position that the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and the extension of Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to this territory are illegal.

Mr. Hasan (Iraq) (*interpretation from Arabic*): My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution on the occupied Syrian Golan which is contained in document A/49/L.60. We should like to express our reservation with regard to the formula used in the seventh preambular paragraph of the resolution.

Mr. Eltinay (Sudan) (*interpretation from Arabic*): My delegation abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/49/L.60, although we are fully convinced that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East must be achieved. This draft resolution did not mention Security Council resolution 425 (1978) at all. No reason was given for that omission. We feel that a peaceful and lasting settlement to the Middle East problem must provide for Israel's total withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including southern Lebanon, the Syrian Golan and the occupied West Bank. All the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people must be guaranteed.

We reaffirm our conviction that the international community must work to achieve a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the problem on the basis of the resolutions that reflect the truth, and without losing sight of the important elements that must form the basis of such a settlement.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote after the voting.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX), dated 20 November 1974, and resolution 43/177, of 15 December 1988, I call on the Observer for Palestine.

Mr. Al-Kidwa (Observer for Palestine) (*interpretation from Arabic*): We have expressed our position before the General Assembly on many occasions during this session. We have also expressed our sincerest gratitude to the Member States that have assisted us and cooperated with us in reaching the excellent results that have been achieved at this session.

We should like at this time to reiterate our thanks to those States for the adoption of the three draft resolutions submitted under the agenda item on the situation in the Middle East, and in particular the resolution on Jerusalem. This is a question of paramount importance to the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nation, and indeed to all the believers of the three religions the world over. The Holy City of Jerusalem has been and remains a key to peace, to the achievement of a definitive settlement on the Israeli track and of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East region as a whole.

We took an active part in the negotiations on the draft resolution entitled "Middle East peace process". The parties concerned were able to remove certain obstacles they had encountered. Indeed, certain controversial issues were set aside. We are grateful to the original sponsors of the draft resolution for the understanding they showed of our position and that of the Arab Group of States on this question.

In general terms, since we are a principal party to the peace process, we are in favour of this resolution and find it useful. At the same time, we must recall our reservations on paragraph 3 of section B of the Washington Declaration, concluded between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Israel on 25 July 1994, and on paragraph 2 of article 9 of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty. These two paragraphs refer to Jerusalem. We expressed our position in detail on this matter in an official letter which was addressed to the Secretary-General and which was published as document A/49/288 dated 29 July 1994. This position, however, should not be interpreted as meaning that we are not in favour of progress in the peace negotiations on the Israeli-Jordanian track.

May I, in conclusion, thank you, Mr. President, for the position you have taken.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 38?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 17 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(h) Appointment of the members of the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women

The President (*interpretation from French*): Members will recall that at the 75th plenary meeting, on 5 December last, I informed the Assembly that the terms of office of the present five members of the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women, appointed under General Assembly decisions 46/311 A, B and C of 13 November and 20 December 1991 and 22 May 1992, would expire on 31 December 1994 and that, following consultations, I had appointed Indonesia and Uganda as members of the Consultative Committee for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1995.

Following further consultations, I have appointed Norway, Peru and Poland as members of the Consultative Committee for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1995.

May I consider that the General Assembly takes note of these appointments?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (h) of agenda item 17?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 18 (*continued*)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/49/23 (Parts I-VIII), A/AC.109/1179-1183, 1185-1186, 1188-1195 and 1197)

Report of the Secretary-General (A/49/492)

Draft resolutions (A/49/L.51, A/49/L.52)

The President (*interpretation from French*): Members will recall that the Assembly held the debate on agenda item 18 at its 83rd meeting, on 9 December la

I should like to inform the Assembly that the representative of Sierra Leone has requested to participate in the debate on this item. Inasmuch as the list of speakers was closed on 9 December, may I ask the Assembly whether there is any objection to the inclusion of the name of the delegation of Sierra Leone in the list of speakers?

There appears to be no objection, and the name of the delegation of Sierra Leone is therefore included in the list of speakers.

Mr. Bangali (Sierra Leone): It is with pleasure that, on behalf of the delegation of Sierra Leone, I am participating once again in the debate on agenda item 18: "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples". I do so also in my capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples — the Special Committee of 24 — and I wish to endorse the statement made on Friday, 9 December last, by the Permanent Representative of Cuba, the Acting Chairman of the Committee of 24, who spoke on behalf of the Special Committee.

My delegation welcomes the accession to independence of Palau, the last Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and its admission to the United Nations yesterday as the 185th Member. As we welcome this new independent country in our midst, we express the hope that the Republic of Palau will participate effectively in the work of the Organization, including that of the Special Committee on decolonization.

As we did last year, my delegation wishes to express its satisfaction again this year with the work of the Special Committee, especially its continued application during the past year of new measures aimed at enhancing its efficiency through its approach to, and the methodology of, its work. And in a continually changing world, particularly on the political scene, the Special Committee on decolonization must, along with other related United Nations bodies, take pride in its achievements, especially on the African continent, with the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa — a question that had featured on its programme of work for many, many years — culminating in the holding of the first pluralistic, non-racial and democratic elections in that country, in April this year, and the subsequent installation of the Government of National Unity.

In other areas, however, the work of the Committee of 24 is far from finished, with a little over a third of the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism having already elapsed. This underscores the need for the Committee's continued existence and the provision of adequate resources to enable it to carry out its mandate. We therefore commend the two draft resolutions, contained in documents A/49/L.51 and A/49/L.52, respectively, for adoption by consensus by the General Assembly.

My delegation wishes to reiterate its oft-expressed concern over the lack of cooperation with the Committee and the non-participation in its work by a number of administering Powers. We believe that the cooperation of administering Powers is crucial to the proper and effective functioning of the Committee of 24. One area where the Committee of 24 continues to seek cooperation with administering Powers concerns the facilitation of the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. Visiting missions provide the most effective means of obtaining first-hand information on developments in the Territories and of ascertaining the situation on the ground and the views of the people of the Territory with regard to their future status. My delegation can attest to this fact because we participated in the last Visiting Mission to Tokelau.

We therefore urge those administering Powers that have withheld their cooperation from the Committee of 24 to reconsider their decisions and participate in the work of the Committee, whose members are not only ready but eager to discuss those issues that are keeping them away from the Committee, with a view to finding solutions to them.

I cannot conclude this statement without expressing my delegation's, and my own very personal, gratitude to the Government and people of New Zealand for the warm hospitality graciously accorded to me and to the other members of the team during our visit to Tokelau and New Zealand in July and August this year. The trip to various countries in that region — the South Pacific — was for me a particularly enriching and rewarding experience, which I will treasure for the rest of my life. My gratitude also goes to the people on the three atolls of Tokelau — Atafu, Fakaofu and Nukonunu — for their hospitality and the generous gifts they gave to all the members of the Visiting Mission.

I should like to conclude by conveying my appreciation to the members of the Committee of 24, especially the members of the African Group and the

Bureau, for the confidence they have shown in my delegation and the purposefulness of work exhibited during the deliberations of the Committee in the years I have been Vice-Chairman. I also wish to commend the staff of the secretariat of the Committee for always ensuring the Committee's smooth functioning. As we approach the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, let us keep the mandate of the Special Committee on decolonization alive until colonialism is eradicated.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

The Assembly will now take decisions on draft resolutions A/49/L.51 and A/49/L.52.

I should like to announce that the following countries have become co-sponsors of draft resolutions A/49/L.51 and A/49/L.52: Haiti, Marshall Islands, Mali, Namibia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

I call on the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Perfiliev (Director, General Assembly Affairs Division) *(interpretation from French)*: As regards paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/49/L.51, a seminar is planned in the Caribbean region in April 1995. It will be held in the framework of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The seminar will last three days, with two meetings a day. Interpretation and documentation services will be required in English, Spanish and French. The number of pages involved will be 200 before, 50 during, and 50 after the seminar.

We are operating on the assumption that the conference services required for the seminar will be provided from the resources available under section 25 (e), "Office of Conference and Support Services", of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. This means that no additional resources will be required to cover the cost of these conference services.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will first take a decision on draft resolution A/49/L.51, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine

Draft resolution A/49/L.51 was adopted by 128 votes to 2, with 26 abstentions (resolution 49/89).

The President *(interpretation from French)*: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/49/L.52, entitled "Dissemination of information on decolonization".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Draft resolution A/49/L.52 was adopted by 130 votes to 2, with 24 abstentions (resolution 49/90).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Several representatives wish to make statements in explanation of vote. May I remind members that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, statements in explanation of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Gelber (United States of America): We were obliged to vote against draft resolutions A/49/L.51 and A/49/L.52, on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

While we welcome changes from last year's resolutions, we do not believe that sufficient improvements have been made in the thrust and import of this year's draft resolutions to merit our support. On the contrary, as the United Nations fast approaches its fiftieth anniversary year, at a time when we should be looking to meeting the challenges of the 1990s and the twenty-first century, these resolutions are relics of outmoded ways of thinking. They misrepresent and distort the record of the administrators of Non-Self-Governing Territories; they equate the role of the administrators with colonialism and wrongly label "foreign economic interests" and "foreign military activities" as contrary to the interests of Territories and their peoples; and they fail to give due weight to the wishes of the peoples concerned, to important progress made toward freedom over the past 30 years and to the benefits derived by Non-Self-Governing Territories from administrators that have faithfully discharged their obligations to promote the well-being of the people of the Territories concerned.

We would hope that future resolutions would redress these imbalances and serve as a clarion call for cooperation. The future United Nations must be built not on backward-looking resolutions but on bold, constructive action.

Mr. Gomersall (United Kingdom): Once again, I regret that the British delegation has found it necessary to vote against the draft resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/49/L.51) and on the dissemination of information on decolonization (A/49/L.52).

In my delegation's statement in the Fourth Committee and in various explanations of vote and position in that forum we acknowledged that in a rapidly changing world the Special Committee had made an effort to reflect present-day realities. We welcome these efforts and we hope they will continue. But we still have fundamental objections to the implication that self-determination automatically equates with independence, ignoring the existence of other options, and to the references to issues irrelevant to decolonization, such as military activities. We do not believe that the presence of military bases in our dependent Territories could in any way constitute an obstacle to the granting of independence or impede those Territories from expressing their views on self-determination.

The two draft resolutions submitted to the General Assembly do nothing to advance the wishes and interests of the indigenous peoples of the remaining dependent Territories, which remain the foundation of my Government's policies.

Mr. Rowe (Australia): The Australian delegation has just voted in favour of the draft resolutions contained in document A/49/L.51, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", and document A/49/L.52, "Dissemination of information on decolonization".

These positive votes are a reflection of our strong support for a meaningful United Nations role in the decolonization process, particularly as a number of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are our near neighbours — small islands in the South Pacific.

My delegation is encouraged by the fact that outdated and inappropriate references from the resolutions of previous years, whose revision and/or deletion we had called for, do not appear in the resolutions just adopted. We note, however, that the texts of these resolutions are virtually identical to those adopted at last year's General Assembly.

In preparation for the next session of the General Assembly, we encourage the Special Committee to review further the language of these texts, particularly with respect to foreign economic interests, with a view to achieving greater balance and objectivity and bearing always in mind the goal of ensuring that the United Nations decolonization processes remain consensual, meaningful and relevant to the situations and interests of the colonial peoples whose progress towards self-determination we are charged to oversee.

The President *(interpretation from French):* May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 18 as a whole?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

United Nations

A/49/PV.92

General Assembly
Forty-ninth Session

Official Records

92nd Meeting
Monday, 19 December 1994, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Essy . . . . (Côte d'Ivoire)

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Bradford Morse

The President (*interpretation from French*): It is with deep regret that I must inform the Assembly of the death yesterday of Mr. Bradford Morse at his home in Naples, Florida.

Mr. Morse's association with the United Nations was one of extraordinary distinction. Mr. Morse was Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme from 1976 to 1986. Prior to that appointment Mr. Morse was Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs from 1972 to 1976, after having served six terms as a member of the House of Representatives of the United States of America.

His dedication and devotion to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the United Nations Development Programme as a valuable instrument for economic development will never be forgotten.

All who had the privilege and pleasure of knowing Mr. Morse will remember his warm human qualities, his compassion and his dynamic energy.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I should like to request the representative of the United States of America to transmit to the Government of the United States of America and to the family of Mr. Morse our expressions of profound sympathy.

I now ask representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Bradford Morse.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I call now on the representative of the United States of America.

Mr. Gnehm (United States of America): My country and the United Nations suffered a huge loss yesterday in the passing away of Bradford Morse. In remembering him this afternoon, we should remember his compassion and his dedication to bettering the lives of people all over the world.

Bradford Morse served the United Nations and the international community for 14 years, from 1972 to 1986, first as Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, and then as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. His career was guided by the fervent desire to use the institutions of the United Nations to mobilize and deliver humanitarian and economic assistance to persons in need throughout the world.

It is no exaggeration to state that millions of people throughout the world are in Mr. Morse's debt. He has bequeathed to us his successors in this Organization a powerful and important legacy — a United Nations which

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effectively brings its resources to bear on the pressing problems that affect people, nations and the international community.

We must all do our utmost to continue and develop that legacy to meet the challenges that we face today and the new challenges that we shall face in the future. The inspiration of Mr. Morse's example will be a powerful motivation to that end.

Agenda item 160

United Nations Fund for Namibia: scholarship programme for Namibian students

Report of the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia (A/49/782)

Draft resolution (A/49/782, para. 17)

The President *(interpretation from French):* I call on the representative of Zambia, Chairman of the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia, to introduce the Committee's final report.

Mr. Kasanda (Zambia) (Chairman, Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia): It is my distinct honour and privilege to introduce the final report of the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia (A/49/782). Part II of the report contains details on the activities of the Fund for Namibia during the period 1991-1994. Part IV contains recommendations and conclusions and the draft resolution for consideration by the General Assembly.

As Chairman of the Trust Committee, I should like to express my sense of pride and privilege at being a part of this historic moment and of this final chapter in United Nations responsibility for Namibia. Zambia has had a long and fruitful association with the Council for Namibia as its President. Zambia has also been privileged to serve as Chairman of the Committee on the Fund for Namibia and, most recently, as Chairman of the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia.

The United Nations Council for Namibia, as the legal Administering Authority for the country until independence, had the foresight, in preparing it for independence, to use the Fund for Namibia for the purpose of supporting human resources development as the cornerstone of its nation-building efforts. Over the lifetime of the United Nations Institute for Namibia more than 1,200 students were trained, primarily for the civil service, in divisions that included development studies, magistrates' functions, public administration and international relations, teaching, secretarial studies and management.

Zambia was very proud to provide the premises for the United Nations Institute for Namibia. In this respect, the President of Zambia personally presided at most special occasions, including the inauguration, and at almost all the graduation ceremonies. The Institute completed its work in 1990. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Fund for Namibia and the Institute for Namibia Account be closed.

The crowning success in the discharge of the responsibility of the United Nations for Namibia was the elections that were supervised and controlled by the Organization, culminating in Namibia's independence in 1990. The preparations leading up to independence were a great credit to Member States, the Namibian people and the United Nations Secretariat, as well as to United Nations executing and financing agencies, which, in a partnership perhaps unique in the history of the Organization, laboured to lay the groundwork through development projects financed primarily under the Nationhood Programme Account of the United Nations Fund for Namibia.

Since its inception in 1979, the Nationhood Programme has comprised more than 100 training and research projects. In addition to capacity-building through formal and non-formal training, primarily in the front-line States, the Nationhood Programme supported institution-building projects, such as the Technical Secondary School in the Congo, the Vocational Training Centre in Angola, the Agricultural Training School in Zambia and the Namibia Enrolled Nurses Training School in Angola. The institutions flourished, in spite of their wartime setting, with virtually full-time Namibian administration. The multiplier effect of training a corps of people to run the country and of providing excellent experience in the development and administration of their own institutions was a credit to the United Nations Council for Namibia and the Fund, to the donors and to the Member States that fostered the development of these institutions and projects.

These projects and programmes are a model of partnership and cooperation, to the credit of all of us in the global community. As we have recommended in our report, the one remaining student under the Nationhood

Programme will this month complete his studies in the field of mining. We have also approved one project deficit payment.

The remaining student funded under the General Account, which was primarily a scholarship programme for formal training abroad, will, as recommended by the Trust Committee, complete his studies in 1996, under the able administration of the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa of the Department of Development Support and Management Services.

We are convinced that the cornerstone laid through the training of thousands of Namibians under these three Accounts of the United Nations Fund for Namibia will serve to consolidate the foundations of democracy and the process of healing now under way in Namibia. We extend our best wishes to the Government and people of Namibia for continued success in this regard.

We commend to the Assembly, for its consideration and unanimous adoption, the draft resolution contained in document A/49/782. We are pleased to commend, in addition to provisions of the operative paragraphs that I have already highlighted, the closure of the Trust Fund and the transfer of its assets to the Government of Namibia to be utilized for the purposes for which they were given — namely, the education of Namibians.

Finally, we are pleased, upon completion of our mandate, to recommend the dissolution of the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Trust Committee for their dedication and commitment. I should like, on their behalf and on my own behalf, to express gratitude to all Member States for their invaluable support and for their contributions to the successful completion of our mandate. We also commend the generous support, in the form of financial and material contributions, extended to the United Nations Fund for Namibia by many Member States. The Secretary-General and the United Nations Secretariat, as well as the relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, also deserve our deep appreciation.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I now call on the Minister of Education and Culture of Namibia.

Mr. Angula (Namibia): Before addressing the item on our agenda, I would like, on behalf of the Government, the people and the delegation of Namibia, to express heartfelt condolences to the delegation of the United States and to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) family on the loss of the former Administrator of the UNDP, Mr. Bradford Morse. I personally recall the close relations between Mr. Morse, when he was Administrator of the UNDP, and the former Commissioners for Namibia, especially the late Sean McBride. As we address the question of the United Nations Fund for Namibia, I regret to learn that Mr. Morse has left us, because when he created the Indicative Planning Figure for Namibia he was very supportive. Please accept our condolences.

When my colleague the Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Namibia, addressed the Assembly on 6 October 1994, he extended Namibia's best wishes to you, Mr. President. Namibia is indeed proud that an illustrious son of Africa is presiding over our world body at its forty-ninth session. It is therefore my honour and privilege to bring to you, and through you, to other representatives, warm greetings and salutations from the Government and the people of Namibia.

The Namibian delegation is particularly grateful to you, Mr. President, and to the General Committee for agreeing to Namibia's request to inscribe on the agenda of the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session agenda item 160, "United Nations Fund for Namibia", even at this late hour.

His Excellency Mr. Peter Kasanda, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations and Chairperson of the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia, very ably introduced the final report on the Fund, on behalf of the Trust Committee. I shall therefore confine myself to highlighting some of the salient achievements of the Fund in support of the liberation and nationhood of Namibia.

When this body, on 27 October 1966, terminated South Africa's mandate to rule Namibia, it assumed a noble responsibility to lead the people of Namibia to nationhood. It was against this background that, by resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967, the General Assembly established the United Nations Council for Namibia and the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia. By resolution 2679 (XXV) of 9 December 1970, the General Assembly established the United Nations Fund for Namibia. Through resolution 3112 (XXVIII) of 12 December 1973, the Assembly appointed the United Nations Council for Namibia trustee of the Fund. As the activities of the Council for Namibia expanded and started to provide education and training to the Namibians, the Assembly launched the Nationhood Programme for Namibia by resolution 31/153 of 20 December 1976. In addition, by resolution 3296 (XXIX) of 13 December 1974, the General Assembly adopted the plan for the establishment of the United Nations Institute for Namibia at Lusaka, in Zambia. Thus, through the vigorous fund-raising activities of the Council for Namibia, three distinct Funds were established — the General Account Fund, the Nationhood Programme Fund and the Fund for the United Nations Institute for Namibia.

The General Account Fund provided individual scholarships to Namibians, met the social and medical needs of students and trainees and supported specially targeted educational projects, such as the Namibian Secondary Technical School, which was located in Congo. The Fund also assisted Namibians to attend international meetings pertaining to Namibia. At Namibia's independence, some 255 students were still pursuing their studies in various fields and at different educational levels. Today all but one have completed their studies and returned to Namibia.

The Nationhood Programme was a comprehensive developmental programme focusing on training and research projects. By June 1989 the total value of the Programme amounted to $28,690,360. Some 42 projects, costing $12,223,065, were carried out from 1979 to 1989. Another 43 projects, valued at $16,464,295, were under way by June 1989. More than 1,700 students were trained through the Nationhood Programme and the General Account programme.

The United Nations Institute for Namibia was opened in Lusaka on 26 August 1976. Before its dissolution in September 1990 it had trained 1,456 Namibians in the fields of administration, teacher education, law, international relations and secretarial skills.

The impact of the educational and training programmes of the United Nations Fund for Namibia is very visible today. Beneficiaries of these training programmes are to be found at the policy, programme and management level of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. A number of Government Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Ambassadors, including our current Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, were also trained through these programmes.

It may be said, therefore, that the past two decades have been years of combined international efforts to prepare Namibians for their nationhood. These efforts have been critical to human-resource development for a free and democratic Namibia. Apartheid colonial policies excluded the African majority from meaningful education and decision-making responsibilities. At independence, the new Government had to start building democracy on the ashes of apartheid minority misrule. Leaders trained abroad brought back skills and experience from outside Namibia. Many of those cadres are the ones that benefited from the education and training programmes of the United Nations Fund for Namibia. The Assembly has therefore fulfilled the responsibility it assumed under resolution 2145 (XXI) of 27 October 1966, when it accepted direct responsibility for preparing the people of Namibia for their national independence and nationhood.

The Fund was able to take off and grow thanks only to the generous annual contributions of many countries, small and large, rich and poor, developing and developed. Contributions to the Fund demonstrated a collective commitment by the international community to freedom, democracy, human rights and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as set out in resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

The General Assembly itself, besides funding the activities of the Council for Namibia and the Office of the Commissioner for Namibia, subventionized part of the Fund for Namibia on an annual basis. The United Nations Development Programme established the Indicative Planning Figure for Namibia, through which funds were allocated to the Fund for Namibia. Other agencies of the United Nations system supported the activities of the Fund through such gestures as an overhead costs waiver, funding for specific activities, training and accepting Namibians for experiential attachments and training.

The United Nations Council for Namibia's Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia worked hard to campaign for support for the Fund. Under the Chairmanship of Zambia, with Venezuela as Rapporteur, the Fund Committee inspired international confidence in the Fund. It is for this reason that the Fund has received generous contributions for the past 20 years.

The Office of the Commissioner for Namibia was pivotal in the administration of the Fund's identification of the training and educational needs of Namibia and in the implementation of various projects. Through the dynamism of the former Commissioner for Namibia, the late Mr. Sean McBride, the Fund for Namibia and the United Nations Institute for Namibia gained international recognition, support and acknowledgement. The former United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, Mr. Marti Ahtisaari, who is now President of Finland, expanded the Fund's activities by implementing a programme for the comprehensive development of Namibian human resources, policy planning and research through the United Nations Nationhood Programme for Namibia. Ambassador Mishra continued along the same path. Staff members of the United Nations Council for Namibia and the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia worked very hard to identify training institutions, liaise with receiving Governments and monitor the progress of students.

Many Governments and national institutions all over the world received students from Namibia and provided educational opportunities under the Fund's programmes. Special recognition should be accorded to the Republic of Zambia, which provided leadership to the United Nations Council for Namibia and to the Fund Committee. Zambia also hosted a variety of training programmes under the Fund, including the United Nations Institute for Namibia.

The Republic of Angola hosted the United Nations Vocational Training Centre for Namibia. It also provided the logistics for the recruitment of potential trainees under the Fund's projects.

The Republic of the Congo housed the Namibian Secondary Technical School, which provided general secondary education to young exiled Namibians. The Fund augmented the resources of the Centre through support to Namibian employees of the school.

The Republic of Cuba hosted two Namibian schools which housed the young people who survived the Cassinga massacre in Angola. The Fund contributed by providing instructional materials in English and other classroom equipment.

As we gather here today to close down the United Nations Fund for Namibia and to transfer the net residual assets of the Fund to the Government of the Republic of Namibia, I should like, on behalf of the Government and the people of Namibia, to thank the United Nations for its invaluable contribution to the freedom, independence and, above all, the nationhood of Namibia. The United Nations efforts to achieve the development of Namibia stand out as a shining example of international understanding, cooperation and collaboration.

As we bring to an end the special relations between the United Nations and the Republic of Namibia and the special programmes, we may be tempted to proclaim that we are closing a chapter. Indeed, we are not; we are merely turning a new page in our development efforts. Although political apartheid has been buried, the impacts of its policies on our society are still very much in evidence. For example, the massive inequities in the distribution of resources to various sectors of our community are embarrassing features of our democracy.

It is against that background that our Government is spending half of the annual national budget on social sectors, with education claiming 25 per cent of the budget, or 12 per cent of the gross domestic product. The goal is to reduce inequities in the allocation of resources between the formerly disadvantaged communities and the privileged sectors of our population, between urban and rural areas, between women and men. This is a challenging task, which requires all the support and encouragement of the international community.

Namibia's democracy is faced with challenges of unequal wealth distribution, youth unemployment, social development and economic revitalization. In this regard, the Government is about to complete the first National Development Plan, whose goal is to address the social and economic distortions of the apartheid legacy. The Government, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, is planning to organize a second donors conference for the reconstruction of Namibia. We plead for sympathy, support and understanding from the international community in this regard.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia is grateful to note that net residual funds and assets in excess of $4 million will be transferred to the Government of the Republic of Namibia. The Government has already taken a decision to invest those funds in safe investment portfolios from which regular modest interest will be earned and be earmarked to provide scholarships for training abroad in fields of special developmental interest to Namibia. Such money will only target fields of study which are not available in Namibia. We believe that this is the best way to thank the various countries that have contributed so generously to the United Nations Fund for Namibia over the past 20 years. An education endowment fund will be created to manage this money.

As we approach the festive season, my delegation is gratified to take back to the Namibian people your season's greetings, Mr. President.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I should like to propose that the list of speakers in the debate on this agenda item be closed now.

It was so decided.

Mr. Ayewah (Nigeria): My delegation is delighted to extend its congratulations to the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia on the successful completion of its work. At this important moment in the political development of Namibia, all those who have worked tirelessly to ensure the realization of the mandate of the Trust Committee deserve special commendation. It is important to emphasize that, although Namibia attained its independence in 1990, the work of the Trust Committee has continued, especially during the country's initial period of fundamental socio-economic transformation. The Namibia Fund has demonstrated its capacity to render direct assistance to individual Namibians cost-effectively. It has over the years ensured the exemplary measure of creating a future through education and training for a lot of disadvantaged Namibians.

With Namibia's attainment of independence, the challenges facing its new Government were first and foremost those of addressing the enormous socio-economic imbalance resulting from decades of colonialism and apartheid. My country has remained steadfast in identifying fully with the needs and aspirations of this sister African country. It is for this reason, *inter alia*, that we have continued to support the noble ideals of the Namibia Fund. In the same vein, we fully support the recommendation of the Trust Committee that the available balance of funds resulting from the closure of the three Accounts of the United Nations Fund for Namibia be transferred to the Government of Namibia for use in accordance with the original purpose of the Fund. We also urge the international community to continue to render the necessary financial and economic assistance to Namibia and other developing countries so as to ensure their sustained growth and development.

As the development of human resources is an important aspect of any society and the most durable legacy any Government can bequeath to its citizenry, my delegation believes that national Governments have the responsibility to develop strategies aimed at achieving the desired goal of enhancing the living conditions of their people. Nevertheless, the support and assistance of the international community in this regard become all the more relevant. While we feel confident that the Namibian Government will continue to uphold the ideals for which the Namibia Fund was established in the first place, the international community — and in particular the United Nations, which has been closely involved in the affairs of that country over the years — should continue to provide valuable assistance as the country undertakes its programmes of reconstruction and progressive development.

It is not often that the United Nations meets to say "Mission accomplished", but as we adopt the present draft resolution we shall be saying just that.

Mr. Sreenivasan (India): First of all, may I join in the tribute that has just been paid by the General Assembly to Mr. Bradford Morse of the United States, who served the United Nations well in several capacities.

The United Nations Fund for Namibia was established in 1970 to provide assistance to the people of Namibia during their struggle for independence. Today marks an important occasion, for the Fund has fulfilled its mandate in an exemplary manner.

The General Assembly decided in 1990, after Namibia's accession to independence, to continue the Fund to ensure the orderly completion of all activities it had undertaken until then. This decision stands vindicated by the success achieved by the Fund in continuing educational assistance to Namibians through its General Account, the Nationhood Programme Account and the United Nations Institute for Namibia Account. An indication of the contribution made by the Fund to the Namibian struggle for independence can be had, *inter alia*, from the number of Namibian students who have benefited from it since its inception. We are informed that over 5,000 Namibian students and trainees have been provided assistance from the Fund to date. An amount of approximately $60 million has been disbursed. India is proud to have contributed to this effort.

India's support for the Namibian struggle for independence, through bilateral and international channels alike, is on record. Our participation in international efforts such as the Council for Namibia and the Fund for

Namibia, in addition to our bilateral assistance to the South West Africa People's Organization, was a reflection of our duty to assist the Namibian people in their just struggle for independence. It is this sense of duty which impelled us to associate ourselves with the Council for Namibia from its very inception and subsequently with the Fund for Namibia and the Trust Committee for the Fund for Namibia, which was established after the dissolution of the Council for Namibia in 1990. An eminent Indian diplomat, Ambassador B. C. Mishra, has also served as the Commissioner for Namibia.

As I indicated earlier, the mandate of the Fund for Namibia and the Trust Committee for the Fund stands fulfilled. We therefore support the dissolution of the Trust Committee. Furthermore, we are in agreement with the recommendation that the remaining assets of the Fund be transferred to the Government of Namibia for the further education of Namibians. We consider this gesture to be a symbol of the commitment of the United Nations to the continuing efforts of the Government of Namibia for the economic and social betterment of its people. The Government of Namibia deserves our continued support in these efforts, and my Government stands ready to do what it can to lend it such support.

Mr. Soomro (Pakistan): I should like at the outset to convey my delegation's sincere condolences over the sad demise of Mr. Bradford Morse, the former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Today, as this body meets to dissolve the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia, it is indeed fitting to remember that this act is directly linked with Namibia's independence. The world community resolved to bring about the independence of Namibia through a genuine exercise of the inalienable right to self-determination of the Namibian people. We can recall with justifiable pride that the heroic struggle of the Namibian people and the consistent support of the international community culminated in the independence of Namibia in March 1990. This historic development is a shining example of the United Nations role in emancipating peoples from the shackles of colonialism.

Pakistan, along with several other freedom-loving countries, was in the forefront of championing the cause of the right to self-determination of the Namibian people. Its success in Namibia added a glorious chapter to the achievements of the United Nations.

Today we gather to dissolve the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia. We would like to pay a tribute to all those countries that have sustained these efforts with dedication, courage and financial contributions. The decision that we are going to take also demonstrates maturity in the functioning of the Organization, in that when specific tasks have been performed satisfactorily, we can also dismantle the organizational set-up aimed at addressing the situation.

This is a delicate psychological moment for the Namibian people. The dissolution of the Committee should in no way be construed as signalling the discontinuation of international assistance to them. The scars of subjugation and alien administration take decades to heal. This is a time when the Namibian people need reassurance in the form of continued assistance from the international community.

Pakistan itself is a developing country, undergoing the painful process of transition from underdevelopment to development. However, throughout Pakistan's short history we have never forgotten the requirements of our brothers in Africa, particularly the people of Namibia. In addition to bilateral assistance programmes, the Government of Pakistan launched a five-year Technical Assistance Programme for Africa. The Programme, commonly known as the Special Technical Assistance Programme, provides cost-free training programmes for African students and professionals in the fields of administration, agriculture, aviation, banking, diplomacy, pharmacy, engineering, oceanography, broadcasting, power generation, port management and postal and railway services. Hundreds of scholarships are offered to African students to study in Pakistan institutions and universities. We are pleased to note that Namibian students and professionals have participated in these programmes. We hope that our cooperation with Namibia in this field will grow in the years to come.

In conclusion, I should once again like to congratulate the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia on its important accomplishments. I should also like to convey the best wishes of the Government and people of Pakistan to the brotherly people of Namibia.

Mr. Cissé (Senegal) *(interpretation from French)*: It was with great sadness that I learned this morning of the death of Mr. Bradford Morse yesterday at his home in Naples, Florida. I immediately informed the Government of Senegal of his passing, because Bradford Morse was always a friend of Senegal, and of Africa as a whole, during his years in Congress and the time when he occupied important posts of considerable responsibility in the United Nations. Bradford Morse was very familiar with Senegal, where his work was deeply appreciated, and his generosity and nobility of heart and spirit won him great esteem in my country. On behalf of the Government of Senegal, and on my own behalf, I should like solemnly to pay tribute to this illustrious personage and to convey deep condolences to the United States Government, his widow, his three children and all the other members of his family.

Although 24 years ago there was much uncertainty about Namibia's acceding to independence, the international community, which was firmly resolved to achieve that objective, was already making plans to prepare the citizens of Namibia to take their future into their own hands when the time was ripe.

To that end, the international community created the United Nations Fund for Namibia, with a General Account, a Nationhood Programme Account and an Account for the Institute for Namibia. As a member of the Governing Council of the Fund, Senegal can state today with pride and satisfaction that it has effectively carried out its task.

The General Account made it possible to grant scholarships to 80 students from Namibia. They have all completed their studies, with the exception of one, whose programme will be completed in 1996. The Account for the Institute for Namibia ceased functioning in 1990 after having initiated a number of interesting training programmes. The Nationhood Programme Account financed 14 projects, only three of which need additional funding.

These few examples, culled from so many others in the report of the Secretary-General, bear eloquent testimony to the important achievements of the United Nations Fund for Namibia. I should therefore like to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate the Chairman and the members of the Governing Council of the Fund on the rigour, the efficiency and the wisdom with which they managed the Fund, thus making possible these tangible and satisfactory results.

I should also like to extend my very sincere thanks to the donor countries, and my warm congratulations to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat on having provided valuable financial support and high-calibre technical assistance to the Fund.

This act of solidarity is all the more significant today because the international community, which is determined to continue to assist Namibia in its efforts for national reconstruction, envisages the transfer of these three Fund Accounts to the Government of that friendly and fraternal country to enable it to continue its work. This very wise decision, which we would particularly like to welcome, demonstrates — if that were necessary — the international community's firm commitment to continuing its support for the strengthening of the bases of the new Namibian nation.

For all those reasons, I should like to fully associate myself with the statement made earlier by the Minister of Education and Culture of Namibia and also to reiterate the total support of the delegation of Senegal for the draft resolution entitled "United Nations Fund for Namibia". I hope that this draft resolution, whose noble goals are beyond question, will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. Tejera París (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I wish to extend cordial greetings to His Excellency Mr. Nahas Angula, Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Namibia. Venezuela and its delegation are pleased to see that our Organizations's long-term efforts in helping the people of Namibia have today reached another milestone, particularly since we have been members of the Council for Namibia and the soon-to-be-dissolved Trust Committee for the Fund for Namibia.

Since Namibia achieved its independence in 1990 and the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/243, the Fund for Namibia has been able to continue its operations, ensuring, under the supervision of the Trust Committee, the successful completion of all the programmes and activities on its agenda. The final report reflects the Fund's excellent financial situation and contains the Committee's recommendation that the Fund's operations be shut down, in the light of the goals already achieved in its three operational accounts. It also recommends a transfer of the existing assets to the Government of Namibia to help it continue to carry out, through its own national institutions or any others it may deem appropriate, activities in keeping with the original purpose for which the Fund was created — the education of Namibians.

In its capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Trust Committee, the delegation of Venezuela is confident that the General Assembly will lend its full support to the recommendations contained in the report.

Venezuela congratulates the people and the Government of Namibia, with which we have very close and cordial relations, on the progress achieved in their country at all levels, and we ask its representatives to convey to Namibia's authorities our best wishes for well-being and prosperity in their country and our assurances that we will continue to lend them all the support we can within our means.

On this occasion our joy for Namibia's future is mixed with sadness over the death of Bradford Morse, who was so much a part of United Nations efforts to improve and equalize the lot of peoples. Thanks to successes such as the one we mark today on Namibia, his memory will always be linked with the aspirations of States that struggle for justice and social well-being.

Mr. Breitenstein (Finland): The draft resolution before us, submitted by the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia, will, when adopted, bring to a close an important chapter in the long process that led to the independence of Namibia and its admission to membership in the United Nations.

The draft resolution, in its second preambular paragraph, quite appropriately recalls General Assembly resolution 2679 (XXV) of 9 December 1970, by which the Assembly established the United Nations Fund for Namibia. That resolution was originally introduced in the Fourth Committee of the Assembly by the delegation of Finland on behalf of the sponsors: Burundi, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Zambia. I should like to quote a passage from the introductory statement made at that time by the Representative of Finland. Having referred to the special responsibility of the United Nations towards Namibia, he stated that

> "that special responsibility calls for a broad financial and economic commitment by the United Nations — not a commitment by choice, but one that follows directly from the responsibility of the United Nations for Namibia. It is a commitment to every form of assistance and every form of guidance that we can possibly give for the benefit of the population of the Territory until its independence. Its aims would not merely be to offer financial assistance for relief or education but to contribute to an increased feeling of nationhood and national responsibility among Namibians by providing for them education, training and other kinds of assistance in an appropriate form and environment."

The United Nations can take pride and pleasure in stating today that it has fulfilled the special responsibility which it undertook to carry out for Namibia 24 years ago. Therefore, the General Assembly can, with full justification, now take the measures recommended in the draft resolution introduced by the Chairman of the Trust Committee, the Permanent Representative of Zambia.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 17 of the final report on the United Nations Trust Fund for Namibia.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/91).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 160?

It was so decided.

Introduction of the reports of the Second Committee

The President (*interpretation from French*): The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the Second Committee on agenda items 87 (a) through (d), 88 (a) through (i), 89 (a) to (e), 90 to 92, 158 and 12.

I request the Rapporteur of the Second Committee to introduce the reports of the Second Committee in one intervention.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan), Rapporteur of the Second Committee: At the outset, I wish to express my personal condolences on the death of Mr. Bradford Morse, who was a part of the United Nations for a long time.

I have the honour to present the following reports of the Second Committee for adoption by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly has before it the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 12, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council". That report is contained in document A/49/726. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly, in paragraph 49, the adoption of seven draft resolutions adopted by the Second Committee without a vote and one draft resolution adopted by a recorded vote of 112 to 2, with 23 abstentions; and, in paragraph 50, the adoption of two draft decisions.

Under agenda item 87, entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the General Assembly has before it the report of the Second Committee contained in document A/49/727 and Add.1 and 2.

Document A/49/727 contains the introduction to the item.

In paragraph 6 of document A/49/727/Add.1, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution under sub-items (a) and (b), entitled, respectively, "Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries" and "Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade".

In paragraph 12 of document A/49/727/Add.2, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolutions under sub-items (c) and (d), entitled, respectively, "External debt crisis and development" and "Net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries".

The General Assembly has before it the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 88, entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation". It is contained in documents A/49/728 and Add.1 to 10.

Document A/49/728 contains the introduction to the item.

In paragraph 29 of document A/49/728/Add.1, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of six draft resolutions under sub-item (a), entitled "Trade and development".

In paragraphs 7 and 8 of document A/49/728/Add.2, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution and one draft decision under sub-item (b), entitled "Food and agricultural development".

In paragraph 7 of document A/49/728/Add.3, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution under sub-item (c), entitled "Commodities".

In paragraph 5 of document A/49/728/Add.4, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution under sub-item (d), entitled "Cultural development".

In paragraph 6 of document A/49/728/Add.5, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution under sub-item (e), entitled "Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy".

In paragraph 8 of document A/49/728/Add.6, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolutions under sub-item (f), entitled "Industrial development cooperation".

In paragraphs 10 and 11 of document A/49/728/Add.7, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution and one draft decision under sub-item (g), entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".

In paragraph 7 of document A/49/728/Add.8, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution under sub-item (h), entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries".

In paragraph 3 of document A/49/728/Add.9, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft decision under sub-item (i), entitled "United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation".

In paragraphs 13 and 14 of document A/49/728/Add.10, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolutions and one draft decision that were considered under the general heading of agenda item 88, "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation".

Under agenda item 89, entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the General Assembly has before it a report of the Second Committee which is contained in document A/49/729 and Add.1 to 6.

Document A/49/729 contains the introduction to the item.

Document A/49/729/Add.1 contains the report of the Second Committee on sub-item (a), "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development". No action was taken under this sub-item.

In paragraph 7 of document A/49/729/Add.2, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution under sub-item (b), "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

In paragraph 6 of document A/49/729/Add.3, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution under sub-item (c), "Sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources of the high seas: United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks".

In paragraph 8 of document A/49/729/Add.4, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution under sub-item (d), "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particulary in Africa". The consideration of this draft resolution is deferred until a later meeting, pending its consideration in the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee.

In paragraph 9 of document A/49/729/Add.5, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution under sub-item (e), "Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

In paragraphs 43 and 44 of document A/49/729/Add.6, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of nine draft resolutions and two draft decisions that were considered under the general heading of agenda item 89, "Environment and sustainable development".

Under agenda item 90, "Operational activities for development", the General Assembly has before it the report of the Second Committee in document A/49/730. Paragraphs 10 and 11 of this report contain, respectively, one draft resolution and one draft decision recommended by the Second Committee for adoption.

The report of the Second Committee on item 91, "Training and research", is before the Assembly in document A/49/731. Paragraph 17 of that report contains two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee for adoption.

The report of the Second Committee on item 92, entitled "Agenda for development", is before the Assembly in document A/49/732. Paragraph 10 of that report contains one draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee for adoption.

The report of the Second Committee on item 158, "Report of the International Conference on Population and Development", is contained in document A/49/733. Paragraphs 16 and 17 of that report contain, respectively, two draft resolutions and one draft decision recommended by the Second Committee for adoption.

I wish now to make a correction to paragraph 39 of document A/49/726. The following States should be added to those named in that paragraph: Guinea, Lebanon and Niger.

I should like to inform the General Assembly that during this session the Second Committee adopted 47 draft proposals, all but one of which were adopted by consensus.

Before concluding, I should like to thank all the members of the Second Committee for their contribution to the success of the work of the Committee. I should like also to thank the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen. My thanks go also to the Secretariat, including the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Desai, and all the members of the Second Committee secretariat, particularly Ms. Margaret Kelley and her very able staff. It has been very pleasant for me and for my country to serve as Rapporteur of the Second Committee at this very important session.

The President (*interpretation from French*): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Second Committee that are before it today.

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Second Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Second Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we shall proceed to take decisions in the same manner as in the Second Committee. This means that where a recorded vote was taken in the Committee, we shall do the same in this plenary meeting. I would also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Second Committee.

Agenda item 87

Macroeconomic policy questions: report of the Second Committee (Part I) (A/49/727)

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that the Assembly wishes to take note of part I of the report of the Second Committee?

It was so decided.

(a) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries: report of the Second Committee (Part II) (A/49/727/Add.1)

(b) Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade: report of the Second Committee (Part II) (A/49/727/Add.1)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 6 of part II of its report.

The draft resolution, entitled "Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade", was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/92).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I consider that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 87?

It was so decided.

(c) External debt crisis and development: report of the Second Committee (A/49/727/Add.2)

(d) Net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries: report of the Second Committee (A/49/727/Add.2)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 12 of part III of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Net flows and transfer of resources between developing countries and developed countries".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/93).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "Enhanced international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries".

Draft resolution II was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/94).

The President (*interpretation from French*): I now call on the representative of the United States, who wishes to explain his position.

Mr. Blaney (United States of America): The United States was pleased to join in the consensus on draft resolution II in document A/49/727/Add.2. It was the result of long and arduous efforts on the part of many delegations. These negotiations were conducted in a candid and friendly spirit and with a view to compromise, which we have so happily achieved.

The United States takes particular satisfaction from the balanced character of the text, which acknowledges the concerns of the heavily indebted countries, while fully respecting the rights of creditors and the prerogatives of the individual lending institutions that assist developing countries.

Perhaps most important, this resolution does justice to those measures best suited to the resumption or maintenance of economic growth in any country — stability, sound macroeconomic policies, accessible markets and participation in international trade. Success in achieving these objectives is the principal impetus towards reaching the goal of viable, long-term economic growth.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We have heard the only speaker in explanation of position.

I now call on the representative of Indonesia, who wishes to make a statement.

Mr. Wisnumurti (Indonesia): It is a distinct pleasure for me to speak on behalf of the of non-aligned countries.

I should like, first, to express our deepest condolences on the passing away of Mr. Bradford Morse of the United States, a former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

We welcome the consensus adoption of the draft resolution entitled "Enhanced international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries", which was sponsored by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by Indonesia on behalf of the non-aligned countries and is contained in document A/49/727/Add.2. We should like also to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to all countries for their cooperation and support, especially during the negotiations that led to the Assembly's adoption of this draft resolution by consensus.

We believe that this resolution, though falling short of our expectations, marks the beginning of a more fruitful partnership for solution of the perennial debt problem, which for too long has plagued the developing countries in particular.

Given the complexity of the issue, the developing countries have for quite some time striven to achieve a comprehensive and integrated approach to the solution of their external debt problems. It is true that, as is noted in the resolution, the various ongoing approaches which have contributed to the international debt strategy that has evolved to date — for example, the Brady Plan, the Toronto Terms and the Trinidad Terms — have addressed important parts of the overall problem. These, together with the national efforts of the debtor countries, have resulted in an improvement in the relevant overall aggregate indicators. This is due especially to the progress achieved in Latin America.

However, despite such efforts, too many countries continue to be plagued by acute debt and debt-servicing problems. The situation in Africa, for the most part, is considerably worse than it was in the early 1980s, and payment arrears continue to soar. As is noted in the fifth preambular paragraph of the resolution, this is due, *inter alia*, to the uneven development of the various approaches. In addition, as has been pointed out by the Secretary-General, there is still something lacking in such approaches, and gaps have persisted. We consider that this resolution, if fully implemented, will to some extent represent an important step towards closing such lacunae.

We should have liked the resolution to contain all the provisions recommended by the non-aligned countries' ministerial meeting on debt and development, which was held in Jakarta in August 1994, and by the ministerial declaration of the eighteenth annual meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, which was held in New York in September 1994. I refer in particular to those provisions related to the need for a

> "once-and-for-all arrangement for settling the outstanding debt of the developing countries"

and for a substantial reduction of all types of debt, including multilateral debt, for all categories of developing countries. We consider these to be essential elements of a global approach to the realization of an effective, comprehensive, equitable, development-oriented and durable solution to the perennial debt problem of the developing countries, particularly the poorest and most heavily indebted of them.

However, we note that the resolution contains a number of positive measures. In this context, we particularly welcome the formulation of the seventh preambular paragraph, which stresses the importance of alleviating the debt and debt-servicing burdens connected with the various types of debt of many developing countries on the basis of an equitable and durable approach and, where appropriate, addressing the full stock of debt of the poorest and most indebted developing countries as a priority.

We are also gratified by operative paragraph 2, in which the Assembly recognizes that a durable solution to the debt problems of the poorest and heavily indebted developing countries suggests even more favourable terms of debt-relief measures, including a reduction of the stock of debt sufficient to enable those countries to exit from the rescheduling process and help them to resume growth and development.

We consider that those two provisions in the resolution essentially reflect the intent of the aforementioned recommendations of the non-aligned countries' ministerial meeting on debt and development and the ministerial declaration of the Group of 77.

In addition, we are encouraged by the fact that in operative paragraph 11 the Assembly notes the high proportion of multilateral debt of a number of developing countries and invites the international financial institutions to examine proposals for tackling such problems while preserving the preferred-creditor status of those institutions, thereby ensuring their continued ability to provide concessional financing to developing countries. This provision also corresponds to one of the recommendations of the non-aligned countries and the Group of 77.

Another welcome measure is the call that is made on the international community, including the relevant international institutions, to build upon the momentum generated by various recent meetings on debt issues and to address these issues in the elaboration of an agenda for development.

Other provisions that should be noted are those that essentially reflect an overall balanced approach to the debt problem. These include many of the essential relationships between the various factors that are central to solution of the debt problems of the developing countries — factors that include the need to sustain global economic growth, the need to increase financial resource flows to the developing countries, as well as to promote sound macroeconomic reforms, and the need to foster an external environment conducive to development.

I should like to conclude by saying that we hope and trust that the various measures called for by this resolution will be implemented by all parties involved, particularly the creditors, including the multilateral financial institutions, in their efforts to assist the debtor developing countries to solve their debt problems.

I am convinced that, just as the formulation and adoption of this resolution depended on a spirit of partnership and cooperation between the developed and the developing countries, so too will its effective implementation be fully achieved only through a spirit of genuine partnership.

The President *(interpretation from French):* May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-items (c) and (d) of agenda item 87 and of agenda item 87 as a whole?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 88

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: report of the Second Committee (Parts I and XI) (A/49/728 and Add.10)

The President (*interpretation from French*): We shall first consider part I of the report of the Second Committee (A/49/728).

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of part I of the report of the Second Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We now turn to part XI of the report of the Second Committee (A/49/728/Add.10).

The Assembly will take decisions on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 13 of part XI of its report and the draft decision recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 14.

The Assembly will first consider the two draft resolutions.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/95).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "United Nations conference on South-South cooperation".

Draft resolution II was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/96).

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now consider the draft decision recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 14 of part XI of its report.

The draft decision is entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the 1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development and note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled 'A review of the specific development needs of small Member States and the responsiveness of the United Nations development system to these needs'".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their positions.

Mr. Horiguchi (Japan): At the outset, my delegation would also like to express its deepest condolences on the passing of Mr. Bradford Morse, former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who made an invaluable contribution to the cause of development of developing countries.

My delegation particularly welcomes the General Assembly's adoption today of the draft resolution entitled "United Nations conference on South-South cooperation". This historic decision calls for a new and fresh look at the possibility that such cooperation can contribute to a global partnership between developing and developed countries.

Allow me to recall that Foreign Minister Kono, in his address to the General Assembly at the beginning of the current session last September, expressed Japan's intention to devise

> "concrete plans for the promotion of South-South cooperation". (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Plenary Meetings, 7th meeting, p. 14*)

We are now taking the first steps toward the formulation of such plans, and I wish to assure the Assembly that Japan is determined to contribute to the implementation of the resolutions we have just adopted.

In its statements on the subject, my delegation has often referred to the international Conference on African Development, held last year in Tokyo. In our view, the Conference, in drawing on the experience of East Asian countries that have worked with some success to achieve economic progress, demonstrated that the future holds promise. Following up the Conference, an Asia-Africa Forum on South-South cooperation, organized jointly by Japan and Indonesia in cooperation with the United Nations, the UNDP and the Global Coalition for Africa, was held last week in Jakarta, with great success. My delegation will soon make available to all States Members of the United Nations a report on the outcome of that gathering, which is likely to be of great value in the work to enhance South-South cooperation envisaged in the present resolution.

Mr. Wisnumurti (Indonesia): The Indonesian delegation sincerely welcomes the Assembly's consensus adoption of the draft resolution entitled "United Nations conference on South-South cooperation", sponsored by the non-aligned countries, the Group of 77, China and Japan and contained in document A/49/728/Add.10. I would also like to express my delegation's deep appreciation to all delegations for contributing towards its adoption, particularly those involved in its negotiation.

Obviously, South-South cooperation is not new. It has been evolving for years, and, indeed the Afro-Asian Conference, held in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955, has been credited with laying the basic philosophical foundation for promoting a sense of collective self-reliance. The non-aligned countries and the Group of 77 have continuously called for an intensification of economic and technical cooperation between the developing countries through, *inter alia*, the development of more effective means of pooling resources, expertise and experiences within the South itself. Both groups have also advocated South-South cooperation as a necessary and viable strategy for greater collective self-reliance for national, regional and global development. The dynamism introduced through such cooperation would also contribute to strengthening the world economy and restructuring international economic relations. Since its inception, therefore, South-South cooperation has served as a mechanism for injecting a sense of common responsibility for accelerating economic and technical cooperation between developing countries and for advancing international cooperation for development.

Today, in this era of growing interdependence, globalization and integration, the promotion of collective self-reliance for development should, in our view, also be seen in a new light. It should be seen not only as an imperative for advancing the economic growth and development of the developing countries, but also, we believe, as an indispensable factor for helping to ensure the sustained prosperity of the developed countries of the North, as well as for promoting world peace and stability. Thus, we are convinced that South-South cooperation deserves adequate international support to enable the developing countries to evolve into a genuine partnership with the developed countries for the common purpose of fostering and strengthening the global economy.

This, in my opinion, can be achieved only by increasing the capacity of the developing countries to participate fully, effectively and responsibly in world economic activities for the promotion of world economic growth and sustainable development, which should result in greater prosperity for all. The positive impact of a number of economically dynamic countries in the South, especially in Asia, in helping to put a brake on the recent worldwide recession, well illustrates this point.

The resolution we have just adopted provides us with an opportunity to employ greater efforts to this end, particularly if a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation is convened. We regard the opportunity provided by General Assembly resolution 48/164, which requested the Secretary-General to present the Assembly at its fiftieth session with a comprehensive overview and analysis of South-South cooperation entitled "State of South-South cooperation", as representing a first step towards elaborating a new vision for strengthening South-South cooperation with the increased involvement of the developed countries and the increasing share of the burden and responsibility of the developing countries themselves. We trust that the discussions on that report will lend support to such a new vision of South-South cooperation. Furthermore, my delegation hopes that the intergovernmental meeting of experts to be held in 1995 will help pave the way towards the convening of such a South-South conference.

Moreover, we ought to remind ourselves that in this case, unlike some other international conferences, we should seek to ensure that the proposed United Nations conference on South-South cooperation does not become an end in itself but is directed towards achieving a successful follow-up process and implementation. As we see it, the conference should serve as a forum for elaborating and adopting the new vision of South-South cooperation whereby the developing countries would continue to formulate, develop and strengthen their own cooperation based on their own priorities and needs, but, at the same time, it should also underscore the importance of and need for international support, cooperation and partnership in the pursuit of its successful implementation.

In conclusion, since Indonesia has always attached great important to the strengthening of South-South cooperation, my delegation is particularly appreciative of the efforts of those developing and developed countries that have over the years helped to promote various South-South cooperation programmes with Indonesia. We hope that such cooperation will be further enhanced in the context of the implementation of this resolution.

(a) Trade and development

Report of the Second Committee (Part II) (A/49/728/Add.1)

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences (A/49/784)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take decisions on the six draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 29 of part II of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Strengthening international organizations in the area of multilateral trade".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/97).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s: High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s".

With regard to this draft resolution, may I take it that the General Assembly takes note of the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences contained in document A/49/784?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Second Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/98).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution III is entitled "International trade and development".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 49/99).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution IV is entitled "Specific measures in favour of island developing countries".

With regard to this draft resolution, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees with the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences contained in document A/49/784?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Second Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 49/100).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution V is entitled "United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution V without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 49/101).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution VI is entitled "Transit environment in the land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution VI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 49/102).

The President (*interpretation from French*): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their positions.

Mr. Belhimeur (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*): I should like at the outset, on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77 and China, to express heartfelt condolences to the delegation of the United States of America on the death of Mr. Bradford Morse.

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, allow me to thank delegations present here that have enabled the Assembly to adopt by consensus draft resolution II, entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s" and contained in document A/49/728/Add.1.

I also wish to refer to operative paragraph 5 of this resolution, on the participation of representatives of the least-developed countries in the work of the meeting referred to, and to stress that, in the opinion of the members of the Group of 77 and China, the cost of that participation should be defrayed from resources within the regular budget of our Organization.

We wish to place this statement on record so that it can be reflected in the General Assembly's report on its work.

Mr. Idrissov (Kazakhstan): The delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan would like first of all to express its deep condolences on the sad demise of Mr. Bradford Morse, a former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, who made a great contribution to the development activities of the United Nations.

The delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan welcomes the adoption by consensus of the draft resolutions contained in part II of the report of the Second Committee (A/49/728/Add.1). In particular, this delegation welcomes with great satisfaction the adoption by consensus of draft resolution VI, entitled "Transit environment in the land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours".

My delegation believes that the activities of the international organizations and agencies — in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Europe, and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific — requested in this resolution will become instrumental in improving and developing a viable transport and transit infrastructure in the Central Asian region; making the existing transport network and new alternative transport routes efficient and effective and thus providing vital access for newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia to world markets; and greatly facilitating the integration of Central Asia, a region of significant economic potential, into the world economy.

The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan pays equal attention to the short-term and the long-term goals of the development of the transport and transit infrastructure in Central Asia, and would welcome the international community's support and assistance both in the development of new and feasible alternative routes and in the improvement of regional transport planning, the elaboration and updating of transport- and transit-facilitating arrangements among the countries of the region and their neighbours, and their accession to the relevant international conventions in the field of transport and transit.

By the same token, the delegation of Kazakhstan welcomes the adoption by consensus of draft resolution III, on international trade and development. We welcome the universal nature of this resolution and fully support its major thrust, aimed at creating an open, rule-based, equitable, non-discriminatory and transparent multilateral trading system, which is crucial for the sustainable economic development of all countries of the world.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 88?

It was so decided.

(b) Food and agricultural development: report of the Second Committee (Part III) (A/49/728/Add.2)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take decisions on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 7 of part III of its report and the draft decision recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8.

We turn first to the draft resolution contained in paragraph 7 of part III of the report. It was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/103).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We turn now to the draft decision contained in paragraph 8 of part III of the report.

The draft decision is entitled "Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on emergency action to combat locust infestation in Africa". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt this draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 88?

It was so decided.

(c) Commodities: report of the Second Committee (Part IV) (A/49/728/Add.3)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 7 of part IV of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/104).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 88?

It was so decided.

(d) Cultural development: report of the Second Committee (Part V) (A/49/728/Add.4)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 5 of part V of its report.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/105).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 88?

It was so decided.

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy: Report of the Second Committee (Part VI) (A/49/728/Add.5)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 6 of part VI of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/106).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (e) of agenda item 88?

It was so decided.

(f) Industrial development cooperation: report of the Second Committee (Part VII) (A/49/728/Add.6)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take decisions on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of part VII of its report.

Draft resolution I, entitled "Programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa", was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/107).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II, entitled "Industrial development cooperation", was also adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/108).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (f) of agenda item 88?

It was so decided.

(g) United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Report of the Second Committee (Part VIII) (A/49/728/Add.7);

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences (A/49/784)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take decisions on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 10 of part VIII of its report and the draft decision recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 11.

We turn first to the draft resolution contained in paragraph 10 of part VIII of the report. It is entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".

With regard to this draft resolution, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees with the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences contained in document A/49/784?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): This draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/109).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We now turn to the draft decision contained in paragraph 11 of part VIII of the report.

The draft decision is entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/176 of 21 December 1993". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (g) of agenda item 88?

It was so decided.

(h) International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries: report of the Second Committee (Part IX) (A/49/728/Add.8)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 7 of part IX of its report.

The draft resolution is entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries: International Year for the Eradication of Poverty".

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/110).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (h) of agenda item 88?

It was so decided.

(i) United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation: report of the Second Committee (Part X) (A/49/728/Add.9)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 3 of part X of its report.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (i) of agenda item 88 and of agenda item 88 as a whole?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 89

Environment and sustainable development: report of the Second Committee (Parts I and VII) (A/49/729 and Add.6)

The President (*interpretation from French*): We shall first consider part I of the report of the Second Committee (A/49/729).

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of part I of the report of the Second Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We now turn to part VII of the report of the Second Committee (A/49/729/Add.6).

I call on the representative of the Philippines on a point of order.

Mr. Guerrero (Philippines): In part VII of the Second Committee's report, the Philippines is not listed in paragraph 7 as a co-sponsor of the draft resolution entitled "Support for the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Programme". We would ask the Secretariat to place it on record that the Philippines did indeed wish to be a co-sponsor of that draft resolution, which we regard as very significant.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take decisions on the nine draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 43 of part VII of its report and the two draft decisions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 44.

I shall put the nine draft resolutions and two draft decisions to the Assembly one by one. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will have the opportunity to explain their positions.

The Assembly will turn first to the draft resolutions, contained in paragraph 43 of part VII of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/111).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "Support for the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Programme".

It was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/112).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution III is entitled "Dissemination of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 49/113).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution IV is entitled "International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer".

It was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 49/114).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution V is entitled "Observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution V without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 49/115).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution VI is entitled "Unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas".

Draft resolution VI was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 49/116).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution VII is entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution VII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 49/117).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution VIII is entitled "Fisheries bycatch and discards and their impact on the sustainable use of the world's living marine resources".

It was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VIII was adopted (resolution 49/118).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution IX is entitled "International Day for Biological Diversity".

The Second Committee adopted draft resolution IX without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IX was adopted (resolution 49/119).

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take decisions on the two draft decisions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 44 of part VII of its report.

Draft decision I, entitled "Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas", was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft decision II is entitled "Documents relating to environment and sustainable development". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision II?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their positions.

Mr. Chiranond (Thailand): Thailand attaches great importance to the proper preservation and management of the living marine resources in the world's oceans and seas, which is an important principle contained in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and Agenda 21, as well as in draft resolution VI. We feel that the draft resolution represents a step towards ensuring the sustainability of marine resources. For this reason, my delegation was pleased to join with others in the adoption of draft resolution VI by consensus.

We would like to associate ourselves with the views expressed on this draft resolution by the delegations of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea before the Second Committee.

International negotiations on fisheries are ongoing, both in the United Nations and in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Our joining the consensus in the adoption of this draft resolution today does not prejudge our position in the ongoing negotiations in the international forums I have just mentioned.

In our opinion, the crux of the issue is how to obtain the maximum sustainable utilization of living marine resources. As stated in article 62 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the achievement of this optimum goal requires cooperation in fisheries between coastal and other States.

The Thai Government has actively supported the promotion of legitimate international fisheries cooperation between the private sector and neighbouring coastal States that do not have the capacity to harvest the entire allowable catch. Fisheries agreements with these countries have been obtained in the form of both licensing and joint ventures. We will continue to work in a spirit of cooperation and neighbourliness with these regional coastal States in order to obtain a mutually beneficial arrangement on this issue of fisheries, conservation and management.

Mr. Horiguchi (Japan): Now that we have adopted the report containing the draft resolution entitled "Fisheries bycatch and discards and their impact on the sustainable use of the world's living marine resources", my delegation would like to emphasize the importance of taking full and proper account of the best scientific information available.

In this connection, my delegation would like to call the General Assembly's attention to the necessity of collecting information on the possible impact of activities other than fisheries on non-target species in order to develop an overall strategy for conserving and managing them, and to suggest that the United Nations provide a forum to discuss this important issue in an integrated manner.

Mr. Burhan (Turkey): First, we would like to express our deep condolences on the death of Mr. Bradford Morse, former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

For the record, Turkey would like to make the following statement on the resolution just adopted by consensus which is entitled "Support for the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Programme" and is contained in document A/49/729/Add.6.

In connection with the reference in the fourth preambular paragraph to the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, my delegation wishes to emphasize that Turkey, though not a signatory of the Convention, none the less joined in the consensus because it fully supports the general thrust of the resolution. However, this should not in any way be construed as a change of position by the Turkish Government *vis-à-vis* the Convention on the Law of the Sea or as an explicit or implicit acceptance of any provisions thereof.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: We have heard the last representative in explanation of position.

I call on the representative of the United States, who wishes to make a statement.

Ms. Bohn (United States of America): On behalf of my Government I should like to thank our 56 co-sponsors for their support of the GLOBE resolution. This initiative will link schoolchildren, teachers and scientists worldwide, energize scientific and environmental education and contribute to scientific research — with the goal of enhancing our ability to protect the health of the planet and contribute to the promotion of sustainable development.

Although the GLOBE programme is still in its early start-up phase, the goal is to have the programme under way in at least 200 schools worldwide by the twenty-fifth Earth Day, in April 1995. The response to this initiative has been very gratifying. Over 100 countries have expressed an interest in the GLOBE programme and we are now developing a fruitful partnership with these countries. We will seek an effective partnership with the agencies and organizations of the United Nations as well. Certainly there is a great deal of experience and expertise within this institution that can further the objectives of the GLOBE programme and that can make a significant contribution to its successful implementation.

We look forward to working with you, Mr. President, and with all the Members of the United Nations to make the GLOBE programme as successful as possible.

(a) Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: report of the Second Committee (Part II) (A/49/729/Add.1)

The President *(interpretation from French)*: In part II of its report, the Second Committee informs the Assembly that no action was taken under sub-item (a) of agenda item 89.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to take note of part II of the report of the Second Committee and to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 89?

It was so decided.

(b) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind: report of the Second Committee (Part III) (A/49/729/Add.2)

The President *(interpretation from French):* The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 7 of Part III of its report.

The draft resolution, entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of Mankind", was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/120).

The President *(interpretation from French)*: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 89?

It was so decided.

(c) Sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources of the high seas: United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks: report of the Second Committee (Part IV) (A/49/729/Add.3)

The President *(interpretation from French)*: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 6 of part IV of its report.

The draft resolution, entitled "United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks", was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/121).

The President *(interpretation from French)*: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their positions.

Mr. Horiguchi (Japan): My delegation welcomes the adoption of the report which contains the draft resolution entitled "United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks". The success of this Conference is essential for the achievement of sustainable utilization of living marine resources within a stable international framework which will benefit both responsible fishing States and coastal States.

In this context, my delegation would like to confirm the understanding which has been reached by the parties concerned and articulated by the Chairman, Ambassador Nandan, that the Conference must resolve the question of the relationship between the proper management and the conservation of the fish resources concerned in the high seas and in areas under national jurisdiction in the light of the biological unity of those stocks.

The Government of Japan for its part will actively contribute to future sessions of this Conference based on the Chairman's text.

Mr. Cho (Republic of Korea): My delegation welcomes the adoption by consensus of the report including the draft resolution on the Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and anticipates that a well-balanced document can be formulated in the forthcoming sessions of the Conference, for the benefit of both fishing States and coastal States.

Taking full account of the biological unity of the two stocks concerned, all States fishing either on the high seas or in areas under national jurisdiction must share obligations for the conservation and management of living marine resources in a sustainable manner.

My delegation will continue to participate actively in and make positive contributions to forthcoming sessions of the Conference.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

In accordance with resolution 3208 (XXIX), of 11 October 1974, I now call on the observer for the European Community.

Mr. McDonald (European Community): In our view, the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks must firmly address the environmental issue for which that Conference was called: that is, to protect the straddling stocks and highly migratory species throughout the area of their distribution. This means that both the parties fishing on the high seas and those fishing within the economic zones will have to undertake obligations to conserve and manage those fish stocks in a sustainable manner, taking full account of the biological unity of the stocks.

In this connection, I wish to refer to a statement made by the Chairman of the Second Committee during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, which reflected the consensus of the delegations at that session. The Chairman said:

> "It is understood that the Conference must also resolve the question of the relationship between the proper management and conservation of the fish resources concerned in the high seas and in areas under national jurisdiction in the light of the biological unity of those stocks".

The European Union has throughout the Conference sought to advance a reasonable position that takes full account of the interests of both high-seas and coastal fishing States. We feel that only a responsible attitude by both can make a difference in the important task of conserving these fish stocks.

We feel we made good progress at the last session of the Conference, and we continue to hope that it will succeed under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Nandan. We look forward to cooperating with him in the coming months.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 89?

It was so decided.

(d) Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Report of the Second Committee (Part V) (A/49/729/Add.4)

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences (A/49/784)

The President (*interpretation from French*): In order to give the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee time to consider the programme budget implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of part V of its report, the Assembly will consider sub-item (d) of agenda item 89 at a later stage.

(e) Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States

Report of the Second Committee (Part VI) (A/49/729/Add.5)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/792)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 9 of part VI of its report.

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/49/792.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/22).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (e) of agenda item 89?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 90

Operational activities for development: report of the Second Committee (A/49/730)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take decisions on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in respectively paragraph 10 of its report and the draft decision recommended in paragraph 11.

We turn first to the draft resolution contained in paragraph 10 of the report.

The draft resolution, entitled "United Nations Development Programme and the Human Development Report", was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/23).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We turn now to the draft decision contained in paragraph 11 of the report.

The draft decision is entitled "Documents relating to operational activities for development". May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 90?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 91

Training and research: report of the Second Committee (A/49/731)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take decisions on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 17 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "United Nations University".

The draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/124).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" and was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote.

May I consider that the Assembly also wishes to adopt draft resolution II?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/125).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 91?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 92 *(continued)*

Agenda for development: report of the Second Committee (A/49/732)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/126).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded the present stage of our consideration of agenda item 92.

Agenda item 158 *(continued)*

Report of the International Conference on Population and Development: report of the Second Committee (A/49/733)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take decisions on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in respectively paragraph 16 of its report and the draft decision recommended in paragraph 17.

We turn first to the two draft resolutions contained in paragraph 16 of the report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "International migration and development".

It was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt draft resolution I?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/127).

The President *(interpretation from French):* Draft resolution II, entitled "Report of the International Conference on Population and Development", was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/128).

The President *(interpretation from French):* The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision contained in paragraph 17 of the report.

The draft decision is entitled "Report of the Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development entitled 'Synthesis of national reports on population and development'".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President *(interpretation from French):* May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 158?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 12 *(continued)*

Report of the Economic and Social Council: report of the Second Committee (A/49/726)

The President *(interpretation from French):* I call on the representative of Kuwait on a point of order.

Mr. Marafi (Kuwait) *(interpretation from Arabic):* Paragraph 20 of the Second Committee's report (A/49/726) does not indicate that Kuwait was one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.15, entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan". I should like Kuwait to be listed as one of the sponsors of that draft resolution.

The President *(interpretation from French):* I call on the representative of Tunisia on a point of order.

Mr. Jomaa (Tunisia) *(interpretation from French):* Draft resolution III recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 49 of its report (A/49/726) is entitled "Question of declaring 1998 International Year of the Ocean". Of course, my delegation supports such a declaration.

The delegation of Tunisia made a statement on this matter when the draft resolution was being adopted by the Second Committee, but there is no mention of that statement in paragraph 14 of the Committee's report. We referred to the interpretation of the word "ocean": Does "ocean" include all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, in accordance with Agenda 21 as adopted at the Rio Summit?

We should like the General Assembly to take note of our comment on paragraph 14 of the Second Committee's report, which should indicate that the representative of Tunisia also made a statement on this topic.

The President *(interpretation from French):* The Assembly has before it eight draft resolutions contained in paragraph 49 of the Second Committee's report and two draft decisions contained in paragraph 50.

I shall put the Second Committee's recommendations to the Assembly one by one. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will have the opportunity to explain their votes.

The Assembly will first take decisions on the eight draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 49 of its report.

Draft resolution I, entitled "Commemoration of the millennium of the Kyrgyz national epic, *Manas*", was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/129).

The President *(interpretation from French):* Draft resolution II is entitled "Integration of the Commission on Transnational Corporations into the institutional machinery of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development".

It was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution II?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/130).

The President *(interpretation from French):* Draft resolution III, entitled "Question of declaring 1998 International Year of the Ocean", was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 49/131).

The President *(interpretation from French):* Draft resolution IV is entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel, United States of America

Abstaining: Belarus, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Guatemala, Kenya, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Swaziland, Ukraine, Uruguay

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 133 votes to 2, with 23 abstentions (resolution 49/132).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Ethiopia advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The President *(interpretation from French):* Draft resolution V is entitled "Report of the Committee for Development Planning: general review of the list of the least developed countries".

It was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 49/133).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution VI is entitled "Strengthening information systems for Africa's recovery and sustainable development".

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 49/134).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution VII is entitled "Preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa".

It was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 49/135).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution VIII, entitled "Public administration and development", was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VIII was adopted (resolution 49/136).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We will now turn to the draft decisions contained in paragraph 50 of document A/49/726.

Draft decision I is entitled "Documents relating to the Economic and Social Council".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision I?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft decision II is entitled "Biennial programme of work for the Second Committee for 1995-1996".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision II?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes.

Mr. Ghebremariam (Eritrea): My delegation joins those that have expressed condolences to the United States delegation on the death of Mr. Bradford Morse.

Draft resolution V, which the General Assembly has just adopted by consensus and which is contained in paragraph 49 of document A/49/726, adds my country to the list of least developed countries.

Joining the least developed countries is not a happy occasion. Indeed, the happiness will come when my country graduates from this group. But since the prevailing economic situation obliges my country to be listed as one of the least developed countries, I want to take the opportunity to thank the Committee for Development Planning, the Economic and Social Council, the Second Committee and the plenary General Assembly, all of which helped in the long process of adding my country to this group.

Eritrea, the newest African nation, emerges with tremendous inherited economic and social problems. But my Government and the people of Eritrea are committed to turning things around in the same spirit in which they fought for 30 long years to win their human dignity. Last August, the National Assembly — equivalent to Parliaments elsewhere — approved a multifaceted macroeconomic policy that will in the long run bring a better quality of life to the people of Eritrea and a brighter future to its children.

Eritrea also emerges at a time of the globalization and ever-deepening interdependence of the world economy. We therefore realize that the people of Eritrea cannot single-handedly accomplish the huge task of rehabilitation and development they have started.

My country is grateful for the bilateral and multilateral assistance received so far, but I must also admit that this assistance falls far short of that needed to make the huge economic programme a success. Therefore, I would like at this juncture to make an appeal, on behalf of my Government, to the international community for a substantial increase in assistance to Eritrea. I assure the Assembly that my country will set a perfect example of successful international cooperation in bringing about sustainable development. Once the international community contributes its fair share, Eritrea will graduate very quickly from the group of least developed countries.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the last statement in explanation of vote.

I now call on the representative of Kyrgyzstan, who wishes to make a statement.

Mr. Aitmatov (Kyrgyzstan): My delegation would like to join others in expressing condolences to the delegation of the United States on the passing away of the former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Mr. Bradford Morse.

Allow me, on behalf of the President, the Government and all the people of Kyrgyzstan, to express deepest gratitude and sincerest appreciation for the resolution (49/129) just adopted by the General Assembly, which proclaims 1995 the international year commemorating the millennium of the Kyrgyz national epic, *Manas*. Our special thanks go to the sponsors of the draft resolution on this matter.

Kyrgyzstan, a new, independent State of Central Asia, located at the crossroads of the world's civilizations and religions, is engaged at present in the implementation of a task of epochal importance for us: building up a sound democratic society, based on the principles of political and economic freedoms for each citizen and respect for human rights. We have the appropriate prerequisites to meet this challenge: an industrious and peace-loving people, century-long traditions of democracy and tolerance, and the conscious choice of pluralistic democracy and market economy as ultimate goals. At this crucial stage of our development, the adoption of the resolution on *Manas* has extremely great importance for our people. We regard this event as the symbol of the spiritual and national rebirth of our ancient people and our young, independent State.

From generation to generation, through their hardships and misfortunes, the Kyrgyz people have, with love and tenderness, preserved the epic to this day and have enriched the tradition of folk narration through the colourful diversity of individual interpretations. This epic, *Manas*, was composed in the vast territory from the Yenisey River in southern Siberia to the mountains of Tien Shan in Central Asia, in interaction with other people, and it can therefore be regarded as a cultural heritage not only of the Kyrgyz people but also of all Eurasia. Hence, we can view the adoption of this resolution as a recognition of the timeless value of the Kyrgyz people's epic, *Manas*, and as their contribution to the world's cultural and historical memory.

The celebration of the millennium of *Manas* coincides with two events of utmost importance in the life of the world community: the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the international Year for Tolerance. These three events are connected in a way, as all of them assert the ideals of peace, stability, justice and tolerance. We express our hope that the celebration of the millennium of *Manas* will become the appropriate contribution of the Kyrgyz people to cooperation and mutual understanding in the world.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of the chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council allocated to the Second Committee?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 42 *(continued)*

The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Report of the Secretary-General (A/49/489 and Corr.1)

Notes by the Secretary-General (A/49/59, A/49/116, A/49/281, A/49/585)

Draft resolution (A/49/L.35/Rev.1)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/793)

The President (*interpretation from French*): Members will recall that the Assembly concluded its debate on agenda item 42 at its 70th meeting, on 29 November 1994.

The Assembly has before it draft resolution A/49/L.35/Rev.1. The following countries have become co-sponsors of that draft resolution: Colombia, Ireland, Suriname and Venezuela.

I call upon the representative of Costa Rica to introduce the revised draft resolution.

Mrs. Castro de Barish (Costa Rica) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The delegation of Costa Rica, on its own behalf and on behalf of the other Central American States — El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama — wishes to associate itself with those who have expressed condolences on the death of Ambassador Bradford Morse, who served as the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme with great skill and sensitivity. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the delegation of the United States and to the family of the late Mr. Morse.

I have the signal honour of presenting to the members of the General Assembly for their consideration a draft resolution on agenda item 42, "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development". I do so on behalf of the initial sponsors, the States of Central America — El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Costa Rica — and of the co-sponsors whose names appear in document A/49/L.35, in addition to those just announced by the President.

The text follows the broad lines of resolutions adopted earlier on this item. It recognizes the fact — already recognized at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly — that there remain in Central America major obstacles to the full exercise of peace, freedom, democracy and development. It reaffirms the need for a global frame of reference that would enable the international community to channel support to the efforts of the Central American Governments.

The draft resolution recognizes the importance and validity of the commitments assumed by the Central American Presidents at the Esquipulas II summit meeting and lists the subsequent summit meetings — such as the one at Guatemala, from 27 to 29 October 1993, and the one at Guácimo, Costa Rica, from 18 to 20 August 1994; as well as the Central American Environmental Summit for Sustainable Development, held at Managua on 12 and 13 October 1994, and the International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America, held at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on 24 and 25 October 1994 — at which a framework of priorities for the formulation and implementation of an integrated strategy for sustainable development covering political, moral, economic, social and ecological matters was established.

At this point, I wish to make two minor changes in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution. In the first line the word "contained" should be replaced by the word "included". In the second line, after the words "Guácimo Declaration" the following words should be inserted: "and adopted at the Managua Environmental Summit". I hope that these minor changes will make clear when and where the process in question started and where it was finally adopted.

The draft resolution also recognizes the importance of the peace-keeping operations that have been carried out in Central America pursuant to the decisions of the Security Council and with the support of the Secretary-General.

It reaffirms that there can be no peace in Central America without sustainable development or democracy, which are essential for transforming the region and realizing the hopes of the Central American peoples and Governments. It is important also to emphasize the role of the Central American States in promoting economic growth in the context of human development, as well as the progress made in strengthening democracy and peace-building in the region. This has been amply demonstrated by the free and transparent elections which have taken place in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama.

Concerning the specific situation of each country, the draft resolution highlights, for example, the progress made in the peace negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca, with the assistance of the Secretary-General and the support of the Group of Friends of the peace process — Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, the United States of America and Venezuela.

Mention is also made of the 1994 decision to establish the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala, in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary-General. The draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to continue his support for the Guatemalan peace process, through his Representative, and his assistance in implementing the agreements. It also encourages the United Nations system and the international community as a whole to continue their assistance in favour of peace, national reconciliation, democracy and development in Guatemala.

The draft resolution notes with satisfaction the holding of free and democratic elections in El Salvador and the progress made towards fulfilment of the outstanding commitments assumed under the peace agreements, which is essential to promote reconciliation and maintain and consolidate peace in El Salvador. With this in mind, the draft resolution requests all States and invites the international development and financing institutions to react quickly and generously to the joint appeal of the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacíon Nacional to provide the additional resources required fully to implement the peace agreements.

The draft resolution takes into account the efforts made by the Government of Nicaragua to promote broad national agreement as the best way of consolidating peace, national reconciliation, democracy and sustainable development with social justice. It welcomes with satisfaction the adoption of resolution 49/16 of 17 November 1994, entitled "International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua; aftermath of the war and natural disasters", in which the exceptional circumstances prevailing in the case of Nicaragua are recognized. That is why it supports the treatment accorded to Nicaragua in the light of its continuing exceptional circumstances, so that the international community and financial institutions can incorporate that treatment into programmes to support the country's economic recovery and social reconstruction.

The draft resolution recognizes the valuable and effective contribution of the United Nations and of various governmental and non-governmental mechanisms to the process of democratization, peace and development in Central America, and the importance to the achievement of this goal of both the political dialogue and the economic cooperation set in motion by the Ministerial Conference between the European Union and the Central American countries and the joint initiative of the industrialized countries (Group of Twenty-four) and the group of cooperating countries (Group of Three) — consisting of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela — through the Partnership for Democracy and Development in Central America.

It recognizes the importance of executed, updated and pending programmes and, in view of the fact that the resources assigned to the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America have been used up, requests the agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and international institutions to mobilize the necessary resources to set in motion new national and regional programmes in support of the content of the Guácimo Declaration, the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America and the Tegucigalpa Commitments on Peace and Development in Central America, in order to prevent the progress made in Central America from being reversed.

Finally, the draft resolution stresses the steps that Central America has taken towards achieving peace, democracy and sustainable development, and recognizes the major aspirations of our peoples and Governments *vis-à-vis* the role that we are convinced the international community, and in particular the United Nations system and the international development and financing institutions, can play in ensuring the success of this new Central American undertaking. We hope that the will of the General Assembly will reflect the draft resolution's letter and spirit. The peoples of Central America want freedom and peace. Today, Central America faces a new challenge: sustainable development and ecological harmony. That is why we reaffirm that the resolve and determination of Central Americans, as well as the support which their efforts receive from the international community, will be decisive in winning another and more glorious victory over poverty and economic and social backwardness. We are working with determination, resolve and commitment to achieve that goal.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/49/L.35/Rev.1.

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/49/L.35 is contained in document A/49/793. I should like to point out that this report is valid for draft resolution A/49/L.35/Rev.1.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.35/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/49/L.35/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 49/137).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 42.

Agenda item 72 *(continued)*

Final text of a treaty on an African nuclear-weapon-free zone

Report of the First Committee (A/49/709, draft resolution I)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/791)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution (draft resolution I) recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 11 of its report (A/49/709). Action on the other draft resolution contained in paragraph 11 was taken by the Assembly at its 90th plenary meeting, on 15 December.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution I, entitled "Establishment of an African nuclear-weapon-free zone".

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/49/791.

The First Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/138).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that the Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 72?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the First Committee. I congratulate the Committee on this achievement.

The meeting rose at 7.20 p.m.

United Nations

A/49/PV.93

General Assembly

Forty-ninth Session

Official Records

93rd Meeting

Tuesday, 20 December 1994, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Essy . . . . (Côte d'Ivoire)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Agenda item 37 *(continued)*

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

(a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General (A/49/177, Corr.1 and Add.1)

Draft resolutions (A/49/L.19/Rev.1, A/49/L.57)

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/49/158, A/49/263 and Corr.1, A/49/356, A/49/376, A/49/387 and Corr.1, A/49/388, A/49/396, A/49/397, A/49/431, A/49/456, A/49/466, A/49/470, A/49/516, A/49/562, A/49/581, A/49/683)

Draft resolutions (A/49/L.26/Rev.1, A/49/L.32/Rev.1, A/49/L.34/Rev.1, A/49/L.36/Rev.1, A/49/L.37/Rev.1, A/49/L.39/Rev.1, A/49/L.41/Rev.1, A/49/L.42/Rev.1, A/49/L.48/Rev.2, A/49/L.50)

(c) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Note by the Secretary-General (A/49/453)

Report of the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.172/9 and Add.1)

Draft resolution (A/49/L.29/Rev.1)

(e) Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

Report of the Secretary-General (A/49/688)

Note by the Secretary-General (A/49/208)

Draft resolution (A/49/L.45)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/794)

The President *(interpretation from French)*: I call on the representative of El Salvador to introduce draft resolution A/49/L.37/Rev.1.

Mr. Melendez-Barahona (El Salvador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): On behalf of the original sponsors of draft resolution A/49/L.37/Rev.1, whose names appear at the top of that document, and of the additional sponsors — Chile, Colombia, the Philippines, Peru, Spain and Uruguay — I have the honour to introduce this draft resolution, which is entitled "Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America". It

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was submitted under agenda item 37 (b), entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions".

This issue is of signal importance for Central America, particularly because its origins are closely linked with efforts to free the region from the grave crisis that has beset it since the beginning of the 1980s. From the outset, the Special Plan had specific objectives based on the philosophy of the peacemaking process reflected in Esquipulas II, which was intended to serve as a complement to measures to promote peace, with a view to tackling simultaneously all the root causes of conflict. In other words, this marked a tremendous step towards nearly concurrent support for the process of establishing a firm and lasting peace in Central America and for the process of ensuring equitable economic development.

Nearly six years after the adoption of the Special Plan, the situation in Central America has changed significantly. Central America has moved from war to peace, from authoritarianism to strengthened democracy, from antagonism to reconciliation and concertation, from destruction to national reconstruction. It was possible to achieve these goals thanks not only to national efforts but also to the solidarity and sustained support of the Secretary-General of our Organization, of the international community and of multilateral agencies, among which I must highlight the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as manager and coordinator of the implementation of the Plan.

The Central American Governments believe that there has been substantive progress towards the attainment of the various objectives set by the Special Plan, which in turn has contributed to the process of peacemaking and democratization in the region.

In June 1994 the last meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, which marked the end of the emergency programme, was held. But at the same time a new initiative was adopted at Mexico City in the Declaration of Commitments, whose goal is to conclude pending programmes relating to displacement, social exclusion and extreme poverty and to formulate and implement new, broader programmes of sustainable human development.

Moreover, other programmes under way under in the context of the Special Plan will conclude on 31 December 1994 pursuant to resolution 45/231, adopted by the General Assembly in 1990. The report on this item states that, considering that resources were almost exhausted,

> "UNDP decided, in coordination with the Central American authorities, to assign the small outstanding balance to finance some preliminary activities directed to the preparation of a new regional programme for the subregion". (*A/49/397, para. 70*)

We know that much remains to be done to address the pressing economic and social needs and problems of our majority populations, in particular efforts to combat extreme poverty and social exclusion, to finalize pending activities to put an end to displacement, to meet long-term structural needs, to reactivate the economy and social development, and to ensure social investment, food security, environmental protection and the consolidation of democratic institutions, among other areas that ultimately constitute the challenges that must be tackled if we are to maintain stability, social peace, democracy and sustainable development.

With the end of the Special Plan, the Central American Governments agree on the need to prepare a new programme of cooperation for Central America on the basis of the new strategy of sustainable human development, in accordance with the priorities set in the Declaration of Commitments adopted at Mexico City, at the Central American Environment Summit for Sustainable Development, held at Managua, and at the International Conference for Peace and Development, held in Honduras. The objective is to avoid a reversal of what has been achieved and to consolidate regional peace and democracy.

Before speaking of the content of draft resolution A/49/L.37/Rev.1, I wish to note a small change agreed upon in the course of informal meetings. Operative paragraph 4 of part B of the draft resolution should begin as follows:

> "Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations system and in particular the United Nations Development Programme ...".

I now turn to the draft resolution itself. It consists of two parts. The first relates specifically to the Special

Plan, which is about to come to an end, and the second relates to the new framework for assistance to and cooperation with Central America.

In the preamble to part A, the Assembly would recall the importance of the steps taken by the Secretary-General and the valuable contribution that the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and other governmental and non-governmental mechanisms have made to complement the national efforts for the advancement of the peace process in Central America.

In the operative part of part A, the Assembly would express its thanks to the Secretary-General and its appreciation to all States, to the donor community in particular, to international financial institutions, the United Nations system and other organizations for the support and solidarity offered in the execution of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, and would stress the importance of maintaining international cooperation in order to consolidate peace, democracy and sustainable development.

Part B of the draft resolution concerns international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America. The preambular paragraphs refer to resolutions regarding the importance of cooperation during the period of transition to a consolidated peace, and they include a reference to the final conclusion of the Special Plan and to the International Conference on Central American Refugees. They recognize that progress has been made but that it is necessary to continue monitoring the problems in Central America until the underlying structural causes that gave rise to the crisis have been overcome.

In the preamble, the draft resolution also recognizes the validity of the commitments adopted at recent Central American summits, and it takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, as well as of the efforts of the Central American Governments to resolve economic and social inequalities and to promote broader forms of participation within the new strategy for sustainable development. It recognizes, too, the financial and material limitations that prevail in the region, and takes into consideration the new national and regional strategy entitled "Alliance for Sustainable Development".

In its operative part, the draft resolution emphasizes the compelling need for a new programme for international economic, financial and technical cooperation and assistance for Central America geared to the new circumstances and based on the priorities laid down in the Declaration of Commitments, the Alliance for Sustainable Development and the additional commitments undertaken at the International Conference for Peace and Development — all of which constitute the framework of the new strategy for development in Central America. It stresses the importance of external cooperation; requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize resources; and urges States, international financial institutions, other governmental and non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system — in particular, the United Nations Development Programme — to participate in this process. Stress is laid also on the urgent need for the international community to maintain its cooperation and to provide the financial resources necessary to promoting effectively growth and development in Central America. The draft resolution concludes by requesting the Secretary-General to report on its implementation and deciding to consider this question at its fiftieth session and subsequently on a biennial basis.

In conclusion, I believe that it is important to remember the link between peace, democracy and development. In Central America this trilogy has been evolving successfully, thus contributing to the peacemaking process. We consider that democracy is fragile, especially in our countries, which are trying to extricate themselves from a period of transition in order to consolidate peace, whose strengthening requires greater efforts day by day. To this end we need the support of the international community.

We request that the draft resolution be adopted by consensus.

The President *(interpretation from French):* I call on the representative of Guatemala to introduce draft resolution A/49/L.39/Rev.1.

Mr. Martini Herrera (Guatemala) *(interpretation from Spanish):* I have the honour of introducing draft resolution A/49/L.39/Rev.1, which is entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of El Salvador", on behalf of its 15 original sponsors, as well as Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, the Philippines, Italy, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay, which joined those sponsors today.

As you, Mr. President, and other representatives know, the General Assembly adopted resolutions with the same title at its last two sessions. I refer to resolutions

47/158 and 48/203, which were adopted by consensus both in the Second Committee — where they originated — and in the General Assembly.

From those resolutions, and in the light of past events, it is clear that there is an urgent need to adopt the draft resolution that I have the honour to introduce.

In the aforementioned resolutions, the Assembly noted with satisfaction the signing in January 1992 of the Chapultepec Agreement between the parties to the conflict that had ravaged El Salvador since 1969, the Agreement that put an end to that tragic conflict. The Assembly expressed grave concern at the devastating effects of the conflict and stressed

> "the need for greater involvement of the international community in the reconstruction and development of El Salvador through the granting of economic, technical and financial assistance". *(resolution 47/158, sixth preambular para.)*

In that resolution the General Assembly, among other things, also appealed to States and organizations of the United Nations system

> "to provide the requisite assistance, on the most favourable terms possible, for the reconstruction and development of El Salvador" *(ibid., operative para. 4)*

and requested

> "the Secretary-General to encourage the international community to increase the level of [its] assistance to El Salvador". *(ibid., operative para. 5)*

In the resolution on this subject adopted last year, the General Assembly, among other things, recognized that El Salvador was

> "at a critical stage of transition and that international cooperation will help overcome the difficulties that have arisen and to implement fully the commitments assumed under the Chapultepec Agreement". *(resolution 48/203, fourth preambular para.)*

Less than a month ago the representative of the United States of America, speaking in the Security Council, paid a well-deserved tribute to El Salvador when she said that its people had

> "persevered, sometimes at great risk, to bring about real change in their society". *(S/PV.3465, p. 11)*

Despite that admirable perseverance and the institutional reforms that have been introduced and the free and fair elections that took place in the country this year, the peace process which was initiated under and is governed by the Chapultepec Agreement has not yet been concluded.

Furthermore, El Salvador still needs international assistance both for the development of the peace process and for purely economic purposes. With respect to assistance of the former type, it should be recalled that on 23 November 1994 the Security Council adopted a resolution in which, among other things, it urged

> "all States and the international institutions engaged in the fields of development and finance to contribute promptly and generously in support of the implementation of all aspects of the Peace Accords, as requested jointly by the Government of El Salvador and FMLN". *(Security Council resolution 961 (1994), para. 6)*

On a purely economic level it must be noted that, as the Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 19 of his report (A/49/562) on assistance to El Salvador, there is still a need for the international community to provide technical and economic assistance to El Salvador, especially since, as is also pointed out in the report, financial support for El Salvador from outside the country has fallen off.

El Salvador's needs can be clearly understood if we take into account the more than 75,000 human lives lost in the recent civil war, and the more than 1 million refugees and displaced persons and the enormous material damages that resulted from it.

In the light of the background just described, the various provisions of the draft resolution that I have the honour to introduce need no explanation.

The first four paragraphs of the preambular part are an updated version of the corresponding preambular paragraphs of resolution 48/203 and are self-explanatory. The last paragraph of the preambular part refers to an event that took place two months ago, an event worth highlighting because it reflects the firm resolve of the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional to continue complying with the Chapultepec Agreement, which is the basis of the peace process.

In the first two operative paragraphs of the draft resolution the General Assembly reiterates its appreciation, as expressed in resolution 48/203, to the international community as a whole and certain Governments in particular, to agencies of the United Nations system and to non-governmental organizations for assistance provided to El Salvador. Operative paragraph 3 states and expands upon the principles set forth in the corresponding operative paragraph of resolution 48/203. Given the background, operative paragraphs 5 and 6, though new, call for no explanation. Nor does operative paragraph 7, which is only slightly different from the corresponding operative paragraph of resolution 48/203. The last operative paragraph reflects the interest the General Assembly cannot but have in following up on the question of assistance for the reconstruction and development of El Salvador.

Allow me to express my delegation's fervent hope that the draft resolution I have just introduced will be adopted, like its predecessors, by consensus.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I call on the representative of Guinea to introduce draft resolutions A/49/L.41/Rev.1, A/49/L.42/Rev.1 and A/49/L.48/Rev.2, and revisions to draft resolution A/49/L.26/Rev.1.

Mr. Dione (Guinea) (*interpretation from French*): I have the honour, under agenda item 37 (b) and on behalf of the African Group, to introduce the three draft resolutions contained in, respectively, the following documents: A/49/L.41/Rev.1, "Emergency assistance to the Sudan"; A/49/L.42/Rev.1, "Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia", sponsored by my country, as Chairman of the African Group, and the Sultanate of Oman; and A/49/L.48/Rev.2, "Special assistance to front-line States and other neighbouring States"; and to make some revisions to draft resolution A/49/L.26/Rev.1, "Assistance to Mozambique".

The language used in the draft resolutions is so clear and, therefore, understandable that our statement will be brief. Indeed, they have been the subject of broad consultations and have been endorsed by the African Group. Although these draft resolutions have been updated to correspond with the socio-political developments that have taken place in some of the countries concerned, and because of the success of multilateral actions under the aegis of the United Nations, such as in Mozambique and South Africa, in general they have not been changed substantially *vis-à-vis* the corresponding resolutions adopted last year.

The preambular paragraphs highlight, *inter alia*, the need to continue humanitarian assistance to the countries in question while taking into account their respective emergency situations, brought on by the harmful effects of civil war in Somalia and Mozambique, malaria in Sudan, and apartheid and desertification in some countries of southern Africa.

In the operative paragraphs the draft resolutions stress the need to ensure the safety of personnel providing relief assistance to all in need, and expresses the wish that humanitarian assistance be comprehensively integrated with economic assistance for national reconstruction. In addition, the Secretary-General is requested to continue his efforts to mobilize international assistance for national reconstruction and the development of these countries devastated by war, which continue to suffer total economic stagnation.

In this light, the sponsors of these draft resolutions believe that Somalia should continue to benefit from international solidarity in the area of humanitarian assistance, particularly because the United Nations forces are about to leave that country; that in Mozambique the recent democratic reforms should be preserved; that in Sudan it is urgent to implement all available means to eradicate malaria, which kills thousands of people; and, finally, that with regard to the front-line States and other neighbouring States, it is necessary to combat the after-effects of apartheid and especially to halt desertification, which is getting worse day by day.

I wish now to submit a slight revision to operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/49/L.26/Rev.1, "Assistance to Mozambique". That paragraph should now read as follows:

> "*Appeals* to the international community to extend its support to the Government and people of Mozambique in order to establish lasting peace and democracy and to promote an effective programme of national reconstruction and development in that country".

In conclusion, we hope that, as in the past, these four draft resolutions will be supported by all Member States and that, acting in solidarity with the people of

Mozambique, Somalia, Sudan and the front-line States, they will adopt them by consensus.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I call on the representative of Germany to introduce draft resolution A/49/L.50.

Mr. Runge (Germany): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and Austria, Finland and Sweden.

When the Declaration of Principles was signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in September last year it was generally accepted that for the thus invigorated peace process to be successful it would take an important international effort to improve the economic and social situation of the Palestinians. It was in this spirit that less than three weeks after the signing of the Declaration of Principles the Conference to Support Middle East Peace was held in Washington and substantial pledges were made there.

On that occasion the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee was established to coordinate the activities of the donors. Most important among the steps taken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to ensure the achievement of a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the occupied territories was the appointment of the Special Coordinator in the occupied territories. The importance of the question of assistance to the Palestinian people has lost nothing of its urgency in the meantime. Indeed, the recent tragic events in Gaza have demonstrated the overriding need to consolidate and speed up the process begun by the historic Declaration of September 1993.

The European Union is convinced that during the particular phase in which autonomy is being created and Palestinian institutions set up it is vital for the inhabitants of the territories to see concrete evidence in their daily lives of the positive effects of the political changes that took place over a year ago. This objective requires efforts on all sides, whether it be by the donor community as a whole or by the regional parties.

The European Union is also convinced that the donors' efforts to help the civilian population must be accompanied by the reactivation of the peace process, particularly with regard to the full implementation of the Declaration of Principles of 13 September 1993. In this context the European Union welcomes the decision by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to resume their negotiations on the implementation of the autonomy agreement. It is essential that these discussions open the way as soon as possible to new progress on the issues outstanding, in particular those of the elections and the extension of autonomy to the West Bank.

As the largest contributor of aid to the Palestinians, the European Union reaffirms its determination to continue its economic and financial efforts, and its willingness to examine ways and means of meeting the needs of the Palestinians more effectively.

The European Union is therefore glad to introduce and to be a sponsor of draft resolution A/49/L.50, entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people". We note with particular satisfaction that, as one result of the new spirit of cooperation in this area, the draft resolution on this subject has become a matter of consensus since last year.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I now call upon the representative of Sweden to introduce draft resolution A/49/L.57.

Mr. Salander (Sweden): Before introducing draft resolution A/49/L.57, I should like to announce that Canada, Monaco, Poland, the Republic of Korea and Turkey have become co-sponsors.

On behalf of the co-sponsors I now have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/49/L.57, entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations". The draft resolution recognizes the increasing need for humanitarian assistance and adequate financial resources to ensure prompt, timely and effective response by the United Nations to natural disasters and other emergencies, both for relief and for the continuum to development. It also recognizes the need to strengthen further coordination of humanitarian assistance, in particular in the field.

The draft resolution takes note of the report (A/49/177) of the Secretary-General dated 21 June 1994 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations dated 21 June 1994 and its addendum (A/49/177/Add.1) of 1 November 1994. The main emphasis in the operative part of the draft resolution is on three issues that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1994/291 of 27 July 1994, were referred to the General Assembly for consideration: first, measures for strengthening field coordination of humanitarian assistance; secondly, the Central Emergency Revolving Fund; and, thirdly, funding of rapid coordination arrangements in the field.

First, as regards field coordination the draft resolution takes note of the measures outlined in the report of the Secretary-General and acknowledges the need to further develop and strengthen system-wide coordination, including among agencies, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and non-governmental organizations. It further takes note of the measures and procedures recommended by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee regarding the in-country coordinator and requests the Secretary-General, through the Economic and Social Council, to report further on the matter. The draft stresses the need for the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to serve as the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination under the leadership of the Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Secondly, the draft notes that the usefulness of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund has been fully recognized by the operational agencies, in particular for enhancing their capacity to address promptly the urgent requirements of the initial phase of emergencies. It recognizes the need to maintain an adequate level of funds in the Central Emergency Relief Fund and requests the Emergency Relief Coordinator, when the resources fall below this level, to bring the matter to the attention of States. Furthermore, the Secretary-General is requested to continue consultations regarding an increase of resources in the Fund, taking into account the need to secure contributions on an assured, broad-based and additional basis.

Thirdly, regarding the issue of funding rapid coordination arrangements in the field, the draft resolution endorses the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee that the interests earned by the Central Emergency Relief Fund continue to be used for this purpose. It urges all operational agencies to collaborate fully with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in providing sufficient financial and human resources for rapid coordination arrangements in order to enhance the rapid-response capability of the system as a whole.

Before concluding I would like to pay a tribute to Mr. Peter Hansen, Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, and his staff, as well as to the operational agencies involved, for their dedicated endeavours to alleviate the suffering of the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies.

We, the co-sponsors of draft resolution A/49/L.57, support the continued efforts by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to strengthen the coordination of the emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations. The draft resolution is an expression of this, and we hope that it will be adopted by consensus.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We shall now proceed to consider the remaining draft resolutions under agenda item 37, namely, A/49/L.19/Rev.1, A/49/L.26/Rev.1, as orally revised, A/49/L.29/Rev.1, A/49/L.32/Rev.1, A/49/L.34,Rev.1, A/49/L.36/Rev.1, A/49/L.37/Rev.1, A/49/L.39/Rev.1, A/49/L.41/Rev.1, A/49/L.42/Rev.1, A/49/L.45, A/49/L.48/Rev.2, A/49/L.50 and A/49/L.57.

I wish to announce that the following countries have become sponsors of draft resolution A/49/L.19/Rev.1: Albania, Azerbaijan, Benin, China, the Republic of Moldova and Turkey.

Costa Rica has become a sponsor of draft resolution A/49/L.36/Rev.1. As a result of a technical error, Slovakia was omitted from the original list of sponsors of that draft resolution.

Bhutan has become a sponsor of draft resolution A/49/L.29/Rev.1.

The following countries have become sponsors of draft resolution A/49/L.45: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Georgia, Honduras, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia and Tajikistan.

The Assembly will now take decisions, one at a time and under the respective sub-item, on the 14 draft resolutions remaining under item 37.

Under sub-item (a), there are two draft resolutions.

Draft resolution A/49/L.57 is entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.57?

Draft resolution A/49/L.57 was adopted (resolution 49/139 A).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution A/49/L.19/Rev.1 is entitled "Participation of volunteers, 'White Helmets', in activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.19/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/49/L.19/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 49/139 B).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Under sub-item (b), there are 10 draft resolutions.

Draft resolution A/49/L.26/Rev.1 is entitled "Assistance to Mozambique".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.26/Rev.1, as orally revised?

Draft resolution A/49/L.26/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 49/21 D).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution A/49/L.32/Rev.1 is entitled "Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.32/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/49/L.32/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 49/21 E).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution A/49/L.34/Rev.1 is entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.34/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/49/L.34/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 49/21 F).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution A/49/L.36/Rev.1 is entitled "International cooperation and assistance to alleviate the consequences of war in Croatia and to facilitate its recovery".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.36/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/49/L.36/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 49/21 G).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution A/49/L.37/Rev.1 is entitled "Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.37/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/49/L.37/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 49/21 H and I).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution A/49/L.39/Rev.1 is entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of El Salvador".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.39/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/49/L.39/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 49/21 J).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution A/49/L.41/Rev.1 is entitled "Emergency assistance to the Sudan".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.41/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/49/L.41/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 49/21 K).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution A/49/L.42/Rev.1 is entitled "Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.42/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/49/L.42/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 49/21 L).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution A/49/L.48/Rev.2 is entitled "Special assistance to front-line States and other neighbouring States".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.48/Rev.2?

Draft resolution A/49/L.48/Rev.2 was adopted (resolution 49/21 M).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution A/49/L.50 is entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.50?

Draft resolution A/49/L.50 was adopted (resolution 49/21 N).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Under sub-item (c), draft resolution A/49/L.29/Rev.1 is entitled "Early warning capacities of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.29/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/49/L.29/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 49/22 B).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Under sub-item (e), draft resolution A/49/L.45 is entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.45?

Draft resolution A/49/L.45 was adopted (resolution 49/140).

The President (*interpretation from French*): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of position. May I remind members that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Runge (Germany): Allow me on behalf of the European Union to use this particular moment, after the adoption by consensus of the last draft resolution submitted under agenda item 37, briefly to assess the work of this session of the General Assembly on the cluster of items entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance".

In view of the constantly rising number of natural disasters and complex emergencies world-wide, the European Union attaches the greatest importance to this issue and fully supports the integrated approach taken by the United Nations system, which aims for an effective continuum, from humanitarian assistance to rehabilitation and development. We welcome the work undertaken by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the other relevant United Nations entities with a view to maximizing the efficiency and work output of the system in order to alleviate quickly and effectively the suffering of those in need. Their efforts at streamlining existing mechanisms should be reflected in the structures of the debate conducted in this Assembly.

The European Union supports the efforts being made in order to achieve a consistent approach to the issues taken up this year under agenda item 37. In this context, we welcome the clustering of items, which seems to be well under way, and hope that it can be completed in the near future. In order to avoid undue duplication of work, we would appreciate it, furthermore, if draft resolutions addressing individual country situations were analysed and gradually standardized so that eventually an omnibus draft resolution might be achieved.

Since delegations must at all times be given the opportunity to participate actively in the process of consideration of texts of draft resolutions, we would also urge the Assembly to explore ways and means that might help to avoid duplication of negotiating mechanisms in the coming years.

Mr. Eliashiv (Israel): Israel fully supports and encourages economic, financial and technical assistance to the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Peace and prosperity are indivisible. Economic development and improved living conditions in the territories will encourage peace and stability in the region. We welcome the concerted efforts of Member States, international financial institutions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to extend economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people in order to aid in the development of the West Bank and Gaza.

For many years now Israel has been fully cooperating with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the United Nations Children's Fund

(UNICEF), and with other international organizations as well, in implementing programmes aimed at improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza. In this respect, the United Nations Special Coordinator in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip can play an important role in the achievement of these social and economic goals.

It is our view that the United Nations should increase its efforts and funding to assist the Palestinians in the territories, and to facilitate the successful implementation of the Declaration of Principles.

We have made a genuine effort to reach a consensus on draft resolution A/49/L.50, which addresses such an important issue as assistance to the Palestinian people. We believe that economic and social progress can be advanced only through cooperation, not confrontation. However, Israel's participation in the consensus on this resolution should not be construed as implying any position regarding the present status of the territories referred to in the fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs as "the occupied territory"; nor does it carry any implication regarding Israel's position concerning the permanent status of those territories which, in accordance with the Declaration of Principles signed on 13 September 1993, are a matter to be negotiated between Israel and the PLO. With regard to operative paragraph 9, we do hope that the proposed United Nations-sponsored seminar will be organized by an appropriate United Nations body acceptable to all parties.

The Declaration of Principles signed by Israel and the PLO, the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area signed in Cairo, the subsequent Agreement on Preparatory Transfer of Powers and Responsibilities, and the Israel-Jordan peace treaty are momentous breakthroughs that open new vistas for economic and social progress. The concrete implementation of economic projects as identified in the agreements will lay the social and economic foundations that can bring us into a new era of cooperation, prosperity and peace in our region.

Mr. Kobayashi (Japan): My delegation welcomes the adoption of draft resolution A/49/L.29/Rev.1, entitled "Early warning capacities of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters", which it co-sponsored. We wish to pay special tribute to Ambassador Sucharipa of Austria, the Coordinator designated by the President of the General Assembly, for his success in fashioning a consensus; and we thank the other delegations that made a contribution to this end. My delegation sincerely hopes that the work we have initiated with this resolution will enable us better to prevent and prepare against natural and similar disasters, and in this way promote the sustainable development of all countries, particularly developing countries.

Japan joined the consensus on this resolution and co-sponsored it in a spirit of cooperation, but it is not fully satisfied with the final wording of the title. While we address the early warning capacities of the United Nations system with respect both to natural disasters and to similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, the title of the resolution refers only to the former. My delegation would have preferred that the title more precisely reflect the content of the resolution. As operative paragraph 1 provides, the Secretary-General is to address the subject of "similar disasters" as well in the report he is to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. It should therefore be understood that despite its abbreviated title, this resolution does not limit the scope of the discussion next year to natural disasters.

Mr. Al-Habib (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation joined the consensus on draft resolution A/49/L.50. However, I would like to express my delegation's reservation regarding those parts of the resolution which might be construed as any recognition of Israel.

Mr. Hasan (Iraq) *(interpretation from Arabic):* While we highly value all international efforts for the provision of assistance to the Palestinian people in the form of the programme outlined in draft resolution A/49/L.50, my delegation expresses its reservations on the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

Mr. Amer (Libyan Arab Jamahariya) *(interpretation from Arabic):* My delegation joined the consensus for the adoption of the resolution contained in document A/49/L.50. Nevertheless, we wish to put on record a reservation with regard to any indication that could be construed as recognition of Israel or as welcome for the peace process in the Middle East.

Ms. Low (United States of America): The United States Government remains extremely concerned that the draft resolution on emergency assistance to the Sudan (A/49/L.41/Rev.1), just adopted, reflects a situation in the Sudan that takes very little account of the reality that exists in a vast part of that country — a reality that, as the Secretary-General's report in document A/49/376 points out, depicts a Government which has done very little in these areas to facilitate international humanitarian aid to its most needy citizens; a reality which, again as indicated in the Secretary-General's report, depicts efforts by Government authorities to interfere with and hamper relief efforts by United Nations humanitarian agencies in the international community.

We strongly urge the Government of the Sudan to cease and desist its efforts denying access by United Nations and other humanitarian relief organizations to populations in need.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

I now call on the representative of Austria, Coordinator of the informal consultations on agenda item 37.

Mr. Sucharipa (Austria): As we come to the conclusion of our debate on agenda item 37, I wish to make a few comments in my personal capacity as Coordinator of the informal consultations that were conducted in conformity with the procedure set out in resolution 48/162, "Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields".

Starting on 28 November, we held a total of nine meetings, in which 50 delegations participated. A number of separate negotiations were conducted parallel to these consultations.

This process led to the General Assembly's adoption by consensus, both this morning and earlier, of 20 draft resolutions — a fact which I think reflects the importance of United Nations activities in this field. Seventeen of the resolutions deal with countries' specific situations and three with conceptual issues in connection with the coordination of humanitarian assistance activities carried out by the United Nations system.

I should like to thank delegations that were kind enough to refer to my role in these consultations. In turn, I am happy to acknowledge the active cooperation which I enjoyed from many delegations throughout this process. I should also like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Secretariat, and in particular to Miss Nora Benary of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, for their valuable assistance.

May I conclude with a few remarks on the procedure established by resolution 48/162 in so far as it is relevant to agenda item 37. We managed to maintain and further develop the idea of clustering of all resolutions dealing with humanitarian assistance. As a rule, all reports called for by country-specific resolutions adopted under agenda item 37 will appear at the next session of the General Assembly under one sub-item. Thus, the relevant follow-up resolutions would have to be submitted under one sub-item. This should make it possible to give further thought to an eventual streamlined approach to those resolutions, including a more standardized format for the resolutions and, perhaps, the idea of an omnibus resolution.

With regard to some of the resolutions adopted, we also agreed on biannualization. At the same time, we must realize that, for obvious reasons, each and every one of these resolutions is of greatest importance to the affected and other interested countries. Last year's decision to elevate the discussion on these issues to the plenary Assembly reflected this fact.

As far as the process of taking action on these resolutions is concerned, I believe that utmost care should be taken to ensure the best coordination of valuable time and to avoid as much as possible any duplication with other relevant meetings.

The early introduction of all draft resolutions — if at all possible, at the time of the discussion in the plenary Assembly of the agenda item — would be very helpful in facilitating the negotiating process so that due justice could be done to all the draft resolutions presented.

I hope that these remarks will be viewed by delegations as helpful suggestions for next year's deliberations.

Once again, I should like to thank all the colleagues who worked with me on the draft resolutions adopted today for their cooperation and the constructive spirit that prevailed throughout our work.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I now call on the representative of Sudan, who wishes to make a statement.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) *(interpretation from Arabic)*: Following the adoption of draft resolution A/49/L.41/Rev.1 entitled "Emergency assistance to the Sudan", my delegation wishes to thank all the delegations that sponsored that draft resolution, particularly our brethren in the African Group, as well as Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen. Operation Lifeline for Sudan has proved to be one of the most successful relief operations in the world due to the commitment of the Government of Sudan to the relief of its citizens and the support my Government have extended to the United Nations in performing that role despite the difficulties and the machinations of the rebel factions it had to deal with.

Following the completion of informal consultations on draft resolution A/49/L.41/Rev.1, we noted that some delegations sought to foist political issues into humanitarian questions. This is a tendency that has serious implications for future humanitarian assistance efforts by the United Nations, efforts that have to do with the very lives of vulnerable people to whom we should extend a helping hand in line with the teachings of religion and the dictates of morality. We have noticed that a certain delegation has continued to voice reservations over all such draft resolutions and has consistently refused to join in the consensus unless certain paragraphs that serve its political goals were inserted therein.

My delegation wishes to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the importance of underscoring the need to refrain from politicizing humanitarian assistance operations and from embroiling such operations into conflicts between States as they have to do with the lives of innocent people who need help. These are points that have been stressed time and again by the General Assembly in many of its resolutions.

Sudan has always contributed to the efforts of United Nations relief agencies. It has donated 80,000 tonnes of maize for distribution among the needy. It has also provided containers and vessels for transporting humanitarian assistance and established a special emergency-assistance commission under a Minister of State with a view to providing food to those in need.

Despite this, the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/376) contains information that is not factual and that describes the situation in Sudan as

> "one of the most enduring and serious humanitarian crises on the face of the globe". (*A/49/376, para. 83*)

That is unacceptable and has no basis in fact. We would call on the Secretariat to be more careful in the future and to submit a more factual and impartial report.

We wish to thank all our brethren who participated in the informal consultations on this draft resolution for their valuable efforts, which produced the draft resolution adopted today. We thank in particular the Permanent Representative of Austria, who chaired the consultations with such success.

Spoke in English

The delegation of the United States has referred to the draft resolution on the Sudan. I want simply to inform the Assembly that I myself contacted the delegation that made this statement here today 20 days before the informal consultations and provided it with a copy of the draft resolution on the Sudan. The representative of that delegation who has spoken here today was present at the informal consultations where the draft resolution was adopted. Some days later, that representative came to us and said that her Government was concerned about part of the draft resolution and would like to change it. We changed the draft resolution in accordance with her wishes. We were therefore very surprised to hear that representative speak today of humanitarian assistance to the Sudan. This is unfortunate in the light of the fact that we had broken consensus and brought the draft resolution back to the informal consultations, even though we thought that the issue she was raising was purely political and should not have been brought into a text on humanitarian assistance.

The President (*interpretation from French*): In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974 and 43/177 of 15 December 1988, I now call on the observer of Palestine.

Mr. Shreim (Palestine) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Draft resolution A/49/L.50, on assistance to the Palestinian people, which was adopted this morning, resembles the resolution that the General Assembly first adopted unanimously last year under the same item. It also resembles Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/29 of 27 July 1994.

The Palestinian delegation worked hard with all the parties concerned to make it possible, this year and in the past, to adopt these draft resolutions by consensus. We thank the members of the European Union and the delegations of Austria, Finland and Sweden, all of which were among the sponsors of this year's draft resolution.

The resolution the Assembly has just adopted is particularly important in view of the difficult situation faced by the Palestinian economy after many long years of destruction resulting from continued Israeli occupation. The major challenges facing the Palestinian authorities in the context of this reconstruction make it imperative that the international community provide assistance. The international community must shoulder its responsibility towards the Palestinian people to bolster the peace process, which is still fragile and in its initial stages. We are confident that the international community will take firm steps to respond quickly to the pressing needs of the process of reconstruction in the Palestinian territories. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is fully prepared to cooperate closely with donor countries to ensure the success of that process.

The preambular part of the resolution notes to the difficult economic conditions facing the Palestinian people throughout the occupied territory. The operative part urges coordination of efforts and for cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, and calls upon the donor community to expedite the delivery of assistance it has undertaken to provide to the Palestinian people in order for them to meet their urgent needs.

In recent years, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has organized two seminars on various aspects of providing assistance to the Palestinian people. The resolution just adopted suggests the convening in 1995 of a United Nations-sponsored seminar on Palestinian administrative, managerial and financial needs and challenges in the light of recent developments. In the light of the experience of the past two years, we think that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is the appropriate body to organize the 1995 seminar, because of its experience in the field and because the proposed seminar falls within the Committee's new programme to support the peace process.

We shall welcome consultations with all the parties concerned, and we accept the idea that any other United Nations body can play a role in organizing the seminar. We shall strive, together with all the parties, to begin the preparations for it as soon as possible, and all efforts to this end will be welcome.

The creation of a climate of stability in the occupied territories is a prerequisite for success in the economic development process. But this will require honest implementation of the Declaration of Principles, as well as the continued implementation of its main provisions, including the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the main towns of the occupied territories, with a view to the creation of conditions conducive to the holding of free elections, without which the situation there will continue to deteriorate.

We wish, on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to express thanks to all United Nations Members and bodies and to governmental and non-governmental organizations for their continuing support for the Palestinian people.

The President (*interpretation from French*): Before the Assembly concludes its consideration of agenda item 37 I wish to thank Ambassador Sucharipa of Austria very sincerely for the effectiveness with which he coordinated the informal consultations on it. I should like also to congratulate all the delegations whose efforts led to the success of those negotiations.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 37?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 7

Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations: note by the Secretary-General (A/49/390)

The President (*interpretation from French*): As members are aware, in accordance with the provisions of Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations and with the consent of the Security Council, the Secretary-General is mandated to notify the General Assembly of matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security that are being dealt with by the Security Council and of matters with which the Council has ceased to deal.

In this connection, the General Assembly has before it a note by the Secretary-General issued as document A/49/390. May I take it that the Assembly takes note of that document?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 161

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community: draft resolution (A/49/L.62/Rev.1)

The President *(interpretation from French):* I call on the representative of Belize to introduce draft resolution A/49/L.62/Rev.1.

Mr. Laing (Belize): I have the honour to speak on agenda item 161 on behalf of the following Members of the United Nations that are also members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM): Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Arzoumanian (Armenia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The delegation of Belize also has the honour of introducing draft resolution A/49/L.62/Rev.1, under this agenda item, on behalf of the 12 members of CARICOM and the following other Members of this Organization that are generous co-sponsors: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Samoa, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Vanuatu and Venezuela.

The sponsors would like to introduce the following oral amendment to the draft resolution: delete the first three words — "international cooperation as" — from the third line of the third preambular paragraph. The third preambular paragraph would then read as follows:

> "Recalling further that the Charter of the United Nations contemplates the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters as are appropriate for regional action and other activities consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations".

The draft resolution takes note of the decision of the Heads of Government of CARICOM earlier this year on the desirability of strengthening cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the United Nations and CARICOM. Last month, the heads of Government reaffirmed this decision at a meeting with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Kingston, Jamaica.

The draft resolution invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with his CARICOM counterpart, to promote appropriate meetings between their representatives to facilitate and broaden cooperation and coordination. It also urges cooperative relations between the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, on the one hand, and CARICOM and its associated institutions, on the other hand.

The Assembly granted observer status to the Caribbean Community in October 1991. Since that time there has been a substantial degree of cooperation between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, on the one hand, and, the Caribbean Community, on the other, in the areas of economic and social development and political and humanitarian affairs.

In particular, the Community has cooperated with and complemented the United Nations in such specific areas as poverty alleviation, job creation, human-resources development, trade and economic diversification, the empowerment of women in the economic and legal fields, health, the sustainable development of small island developing States, the freedom of peoples and countries of southern Africa and the promotion of democracy and human rights in Haiti.

Not many years ago doubts were expressed about the capacity of the so-called mini-States to participate in the international system. Hence, proposals were mooted to establish forms of participation less than that of full membership in this Organization. Today, however, two of the CARICOM Member States have been full and active Member States of the United Nations for 32 years. They and other CARICOM members have made positive contributions to this Organization. Thus, we are happy and proud to note that Jamaica is the host country of the International Seabed Authority, that Barbados was the venue of the United Nations Conference on small island developing countries and that the Bahamas was the venue of the first Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On the basis of these experiences and similar experiences of fellow Member States in Africa and the Pacific, this Organization recently welcomed the Republic of Palau to membership with full confidence, since it can truly be said that smaller States have a distinct and positive role to play in the international system. That role includes providing some of those elements of vigour and diversity which are indispensable for the growth and vitality of any organic system.

It may be the Assembly's view that the coordination and cooperation between the Caribbean Community and the United Nations are establishing patterns which are distinct and likely to continue. This is probably reflective of the fact that as CARICOM is now a few months short of its twenty-first anniversary it is one of the more established comprehensive international organizations. As such, it has commenced to deepen the integration process in the Commonwealth Caribbean. Now the subregion boasts such organs as a university and other arrangements for educational development, a development bank and numerous other common services. At the same time, the Community recently commenced to widen the integration process by agreeing with its non-English-speaking and certain other neighbours in the wider Caribbean to establish an Association of Caribbean States (ACS) with a comprehensive mandate.

The vitality of such entities as the Caribbean Community, the developing Central American community, the ACS and other arrangements demonstrates that diverse regional and subregional arrangements must presently coexist in this dynamic new era of world order. The CARICOM member States believe that such arrangements have the potential to subserve and further the interests and objectives of the United Nations. In fact, in this period of rebirth and discovery these developments challenge us to reflect on the utility to this Organization of alliances with other entities. Such arrangements conserve resources and facilitate economization. They contribute to overall efficiency, particularly in view of the specialization provided by organizations of friendly and cooperative neighbours. Furthermore, as the draft resolution intimates, CARICOM is a regional arrangement or agency for dealing with such matters as are appropriate for regional action and for other activities consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

More generally, this Organization might well benefit from further examination of the utility of collaboration with regional and subregional arrangements or agencies. In that context, it would probably be useful to explore the relationships between Chapters I, VI, VII, VIII and IX of the United Nations Charter.

It is important to point out that the draft resolution before us requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on its implementation. However, that report would not be due until the fifty-first session of the Assembly, when this item would next be on the Assembly's agenda.

On behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community, I would like to thank the generous co-sponsors of this draft resolution. I would also like to express the hope that it will be adopted by consensus.

The President: I should like to propose that the list of speakers in the debate on this item be closed in half an hour.

It was so decided.

The President: I therefore request those representatives wishing to participate in the debate on this item to inscribe their names on the list of speakers as soon as possible.

Mr. Odlum (Saint Lucia): The members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, on whose behalf I am speaking, take special delight in endorsing this draft resolution (A/49/L.62/Rev.1). The logic is simple: a group is only as strong as its weakest link, and we commend the activities of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) secretariat to the Assembly for the sole reason that it has a strong tradition of service in the protection of the weakest members of the 13 States it represents.

The CARICOM secretariat was not born with the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas. It metamorphosed from an earlier grouping known as the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) secretariat, which originated with only three members: Barbados, Guyana and Antigua. That fledgling organization spawned the CARICOM secretariat, which boasts a history of distinguished Secretaries-General, such as William Demas, Sir Alister McIntyre, Kurleigh King and Roderick Rainford.

CARICOM comprises States in varying stages of development, and the concept of the protection of the small vulnerable States known as the "least developed countries" is built into the structure of the CARICOM Agreement. This alone is an appropriate justification of the draft resolution that was introduced and so ably piloted by the Ambassador of Belize. The protection of small States is essential to the functioning of regional groupings and to the integrity of the United Nations as a body politic. When the electronic voting device scores 150 votes in favour to 2 against, there is, hidden somewhere in those statistics, either the mathematics of arrogance or the collusion of the insecure. Both of those attitudes are dangerous, and our decision-making can be pure and unadulterated only if structures are in place to reinforce the concept of sovereignty rather than leaving small States exposed to the pressures of size and influence. The purity of United Nations decisions must turn on the force of logic and not on the resources of the wealthy.

The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States endorses the draft resolution on the understanding that it would deepen the integration process, not only among the CARICOM States but in the hemispheric sense and at the level of the United Nations itself. Our Group is extremely conscious of the need to achieve a notion of equality and cooperative give and take among its members, and the closer networking of the secretariats of CARICOM and the United Nations will carry the distinct fringe benefit of a closer networking within our Group itself.

This United Nations-CARICOM Cooperation Agreement enters fully into the current mood of hemispheric integration, and the Assembly would do well to savour the possibilities of a Caribbean and Latin American cultural mix, which has included the names of Octavio Paz of Mexico, Vidia Naipaul of Trinidad and Tobago, Gabriel Garcia Marquez of Colombia, Paolo Frere of Brazil and Derek Walcott of Saint Lucia. This multiculturalism is quite consistent with the regional functional cooperation that the United Nations itself seeks to foster between its richly endowed Member States. The CARICOM secretariat, for its part, enjoys a fine track record in functional cooperation and is extending its membership to embrace other CARICOM territories like Suriname, which we hope will become part of CARICOM in the New Year in the same way that Palau took its place in the United Nations as recently as last week. Incidentally, Suriname is also a co-sponsor of the draft resolution.

The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States must perceive itself as an instrument for effecting the hemispheric cohesion which the Summit of the Americas so sharply italicized. Only in this way can we unlock the storehouse of productive and creative energy that abounds in the Americas. The Secretariat of the United Nations and the CARICOM secretariat are the implementing arms of the policies that we devise and formulate. There seems to be a world of good sense in permitting these two organizations to interface, and in this spirit we commend the endorsement of the draft resolution to the regional groups and to the Member States of the United Nations.

On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, I endorse the draft resolution on the subject of a United Nations-CARICOM Agreement as recommended by the Heads of Government of the CARICOM States.

Mr. Rudolph (Germany): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union; Austria, Finland and Sweden support this statement.

Although the United Nations is steadily enhancing its capacity to meet the global challenges facing us today, there is a growing awareness that not all tasks can be shouldered by the United Nations alone. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has in the past been instrumental in fostering economic integration between its member States, in enhancing cooperation with a view to achieving sustainable development, and in coordinating foreign policy, especially with regard to regional affairs. Its constructive role in Haiti is only one of the most recent examples. A closer working relationship between the secretariats of CARICOM and the United Nations, as proposed in the draft resolution before us, can indeed only be beneficial. We have therefore co-sponsored the draft resolution and hope that it will be adopted by consensus.

I would like to reiterate the support of the European Union for the Caribbean Community as a whole. We propose to undertake common efforts to bring about a new partnership of the two regions aimed at ensuring universal respect for human rights, increasing balanced economic trade, fostering sustained development and strengthening cultural and scientific bonds. We propose to share our experience in the process of regional integration and are determined to seek, together with our Caribbean partners, the cooperation outlined in the Lomé Convention. Lomé IV has been concluded for a period of 10 rather than the usual 5 years — and this is proof of our long-term commitment. Within its framework, 350 million ECU are committed to the Caribbean region.

We recognize the specific problems of CARICOM members, most of which are small island developing States — their vulnerability to climate change, the challenge of managing coastal zones and marine resources, and their economic and ecological fragility. Local industry finds it difficult to be competitive and is faced with high transport costs for raw materials and exports. Agriculture cannot meet the local demand for food. National energy and fresh-water resources are often insufficient. Therefore, closer regional cooperation is of paramount importance in overcoming the inherent problems of small-scale economies and avoiding the fragmentation and consequent weakening of economic development strategies. We encourage the members of CARICOM in their efforts to achieve closer regional cooperation.

In this respect we would like to recall the Barbados Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in April this year. It represented a landmark in strategic planning and should have a strong and long-lasting impact on the development of the Caribbean region. We welcome this important initiative, which we supported from a very early stage.

Let me conclude by saying that we look forward to even closer cooperation both within the United Nations system and between CARICOM and the European Union, and in the future between the European Union and the newly founded Association of Caribbean States.

Mr. Samana (Papua New Guinea): On behalf of the Papua New Guinea delegation, it is my extreme pleasure to lend our support to draft resolution A/49/L.62/Rev.1, which relates to cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In so doing, we further associate ourselves with the statements made by the representatives of Belize and Saint Lucia, who eloquently outlined the rationale and principles underlying the move to establish a cooperative arrangement between a regional entity such as CARICOM and the United Nations system.

In recognizing the invaluable and constructive contributions made by CARICOM to regional and international development efforts and the promotion of international understanding, the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session in 1991, granted observer status to this important regional organization.

It is the view of my delegation that CARICOM has undeniably proved its leadership capacity and competence in the articulation of issues, and continues to offer constructive contributions in regional and international forums in determining policy options towards resolving the wide-ranging socio-economic issues confronting the world community. In particular, we further recognize the region's role in the maintenance of peace and security with regard to the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti.

My delegation believes that viable and practical regional entities focused on strengthening the regional economies of contiguous countries and their institutional linkages with the United Nations system would further improve coordination and facilitate the effective mobilization of resources to achieve greater goals of humanity through international development cooperation. We therefore believe that such an ongoing cooperative arrangement is necessary to ensure that the particular interests and aspirations of the Caribbean people are adequately addressed and resolved for the betterment of our island citizens in that part of the world.

From the perspective of our region, the Pacific, we share many similarities with the Caribbean Community in terms of size and vulnerability. It is therefore extremely important for the international community to take a positive and innovative approach to ensure the continuity of needed international support to bring about healthy international development cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, aimed at achieving sustained economic growth in small island developing States.

Perhaps one of the achievements with the most significance for small island States this decade has been the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which was hosted by Barbados, a member of CARICOM. This Conference, from its preparation to its conclusion, with the fullest cooperation and support of the Government of Barbados, was hailed as a great success. It was indeed a notable contribution by a CARICOM nation towards global partnership for sustainable development.

We are also pleased to recognize the role that the United Nations system played in the overall outcome of this important Conference. In this regard, we particularly acknowledge and welcome the ever-increasing activities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). We are confident that in establishing this new arrangement UNDP and other agencies of the United Nations will continue to maintain their vigilance and prudence in discharging their important responsibility to carry out the goals and objectives of CARICOM *vis-à-vis* the realization of international development strategies.

My delegation is hopeful that this new cooperative arrangement will, among other things, allow CARICOM and the United Nations system to ensure that the

Barbados Programme of Action that was agreed to by the international community is effectively implemented, not only in the Caribbean but also in other small island developing States.

In conclusion, we stress the importance of coordination and integration of the efforts of regional entities and the United Nations system as a catalyst in bringing about effective and meaningful international cooperation for the purpose of fulfilling the development and aspirations of our people.

Mr. George (Federated States of Micronesia): I am pleased to speak in support of the draft resolution contained in document A/49/L.62/Rev.1, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community".

A small nation, particularly a small island nation, faces problems which, when faced by that nation alone, may prove insurmountable. However, when faced by a regional community of nations with similar experiences, histories and goals and with close ties to one another, these problems become more manageable. Indeed, the strengthening of regional organizations is critical to the effective implementation of the objectives of the United Nations at a time when streamlining and cost-effectiveness are of primary concern.

The Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community have expressed their desire to strengthen cooperation and coordination between their secretariat and the Secretariat of the United Nations. The draft resolution therefore invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take the necessary measures, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, to promote and expand cooperation and coordination between the two secretariats in order to increase the capacity of the two organizations to attain their common objectives.

The goals of the Caribbean Community and those of the United Nations are parallel, and the implementation of closer ties between the two will be very fruitful for all concerned. The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, as a member of a Pacific regional intergovernmental organization similar to the Caribbean Community, fully supports maximizing the utilization by the United Nations of existing regional intergovernmental organizations in all aspects of its work. The South Pacific Forum, in recognition of the need for closer links with the United Nations, sought and obtained United Nations observer status in September this year.

What the draft resolution seeks should be a matter of course and should be standardized for the working relationship between the United Nations and existing regional intergovernmental organizations. Such regional intergovernmental organizations have a special role in the implementation efforts of the United Nations. This has been pointed out time and again by policy planners in their academic literature and also at important United Nations conferences, such as the 1992 Earth Summit and the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Chapter 11 of the Barbados Programme of Action recognizes the key role of regional organizations in facilitating the efficient and effective execution of projects and in preventing duplication of efforts. The prudent utilization of limited resources is an ever-present concern to small States, such as the members of the Caribbean Community.

For those reasons, my Government is pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution and encourages all Member States to support it.

Mr. Strauss (Canada): Some 21 years ago at Chaguaramas, Trinidad and Tobago, a number of Caribbean nations agreed to work more closely to advance their common interests. These nations established the Caribbean Community, CARICOM, to serve as a permanent body for intraregional cooperation, consultation and coordination with a view to enhancing political relations and economic, social and cultural development.

Since then, CARICOM has worked effectively to achieve these objectives. It has developed a range of activities that have increased coordination on foreign policy, deepened and extended economic integration, and promoted development. Through the Association of Caribbean States, the members of CARICOM are extending their links to other States and territories of the Caribbean. These efforts have made a positive contribution to enhancing peace, stability and development in the region.

Canada enjoys a very positive relationship with CARICOM and its member States. Ties of family, culture and commerce form an interrelated network linking us closely together. These bonds form the basis of our common efforts to address the evolving political, economic and social challenges facing the region. CARICOM and Canada work actively and closely in a number of areas at the United Nations; fisheries and the international criminal court are just two examples. We would also note our mutual cooperation in preparation for the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in April this year and ably hosted by Barbados, which served to highlight the unique situation of these nations. Through our technical assistance programme, Canada works in partnership with CARICOM members in a variety of areas focusing on human resources development and the strengthening of democratic institutions. As we move towards open trade throughout the hemisphere, Canada looks forward to enhancing contacts with CARICOM to enable its members to take advantage of the opportunities this development presents.

At the 15th meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Bridgetown, CARICOM leaders agreed to seek closer cooperation with the United Nations to achieve the common goals of the two organizations. The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros-Ghali, has underlined the utility and importance of intensified links between the United Nations and regional organizations as a way of meeting the challenges of a changed world. In this context, it is entirely appropriate and timely for the General Assembly to endorse the draft resolution before us that would formalize these links. Canada is convinced that closer cooperation between the United Nations and CARICOM will be beneficial to both. We fully endorse this initiative and have added our name to the list of sponsors of the text that we will consider today.

Ms. Cowal (United States of America): The United States is pleased to co-sponsor draft resolution A/49/L.62/Rev.1, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community".

The countries of the Caribbean are our neighbours. Among these neighbours, those that are members of CARICOM include some of the oldest democracies in this hemisphere. We are very proud to say that the troops and police monitors dispatched by CARICOM nations are working side by side with those from the United States and other countries in the multinational force which is helping to restore democracy to another Caribbean neighbour, Haiti.

Since the formation of CARICOM in 1973, the organization has worked to improve and integrate the economies and political structures of the nations of the English-speaking Caribbean. The United States has supported CARICOM's work, agreeing with the idea that economic and political integration increases prosperity and strengthens interregional relations, and relations with countries outside the Caribbean.

At the recent Summit of the Americas, in Miami, the United States had a free and frank discussion with CARICOM members on a broad range of issues, most notably trade issues. The United States Caribbean Basin Initiative, which began in 1983 and continues to this day, has helped the economies of all CARICOM countries by dropping most barriers to Caribbean exports coming in to the United States. President Clinton is committed to a free trade zone that will encompass the entire Western Hemisphere by the year 2005.

Besides trade, the United States is committed to working with our friends in CARICOM on a variety of other issues. Illegal drug trafficking is an increasing problem faced by CARICOM members. As the scourge of narcotics affects every nation on Earth, we must and will work in unison to solve this problem.

The countries of CARICOM have a rich and diverse culture. From the calypso and steel bands of the eastern Caribbean to the reggae of Jamaica, from the work of Saint Lucian playwright Derek Walcott to Trinidadian author V. S. Naipaul, the Caribbean countries have added much to the world's cultural life. Many immigrants to the United States have come from the English-speaking Caribbean, and they have enriched the United States.

The United States is proud to co-sponsor draft resolution A/49/L.62/Rev.1, pledging cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community. We know that CARICOM will continue to carry out its important mission, and the United States will, as friend and supporter, do everything it can do to ensure CARICOM's success.

The President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/49/L.62/Rev.1.

I should like to announce that the following countries have become co-sponsors of the draft resolution: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Uganda.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/49/L.62/Rev.1.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.62/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/49/L.62/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 49/141).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 161?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 46

Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States administration in April 1986

The President: It is my understanding that, following the necessary consultations, consideration of item 46 can be deferred to the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

May I take it that is the wish of the General Assembly to defer consideration of the item and to include it in the provisional agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 46?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 8 *(continued)*

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item submitted by the Secretary-General (A/49/239)

The President: In his note in document A/49/239, the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly that the death of Judge Nikolai Konstantinovitch Tarassov of the Russian Federation has resulted in a vacancy in the International Court of Justice, and draws the Assembly's attention to Security Council resolution 951 (1994), adopted on 21 October 1994, whereby the Council decided that the election to fill the vacancy should take place on 26 January 1995 at a meeting of the Security Council and at a meeting of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Inasmuch as agenda item 15 of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly does not include a sub-item relating to the election to fill this vacancy, it is proposed that a sub-item entitled "Election of a member of the International Court of Justice" be included in the agenda of the forty-ninth session.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly agrees, under the circumstances of the present case just described, that the provision of rule 40 of the rules of procedure that would require a meeting of the General Committee on the question of the inclusion of this sub-item on the agenda should be waived.

It was so decided.

The President: May I also take it that the Assembly wishes to include an additional sub-item under agenda item 15 to read as follows: "(c) Election of a member of the International Court of Justice"?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.